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OFFICIAL REPORT

THIRD SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FOURTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-SEVENTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2007–2008

COMPRISING PERIOD
3 November 2008—13 November 2008

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3 November 2008

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 3 November 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Regulatory Issues

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Ian Pearson): My noble Friend the Secretary of State made the following ministerial statement:

On 18 September 2008, the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform issued an intervention notice to the Office of Fair Trading (OFT) under section 42 of the Enterprise Act 2002 in relation to the proposed merger between Lloyds TSB Group and HBOS plc. This stated his belief that the stability of the UK financial system ought to be specified as a public interest consideration under section 58 of the Act and that it may be the case that the stability of the UK financial system is relevant to a consideration of the merger situation. That new public interest consideration relating to "the stability of the UK financial system" has now been finalised and has been added to the Act as section 58(2D).

The intervention notice required the OFT to provide a report to the Secretary of State pursuant to section 44 of the Act. My noble Friend the Secretary of State received the OFT's report on this matter on 24 October 2008. This includes the OFT's advice that it is or may be the case that: arrangements are in progress or in contemplation which, if carried into effect, will result in the creation of a relevant merger situation, the creation of that merger situation may be expected to result in a substantial lessening of competition, and that it would not be appropriate to deal with the matter by way of statutory undertakings under paragraph 3 of schedule 7 to the Act. Under section 46(2) of the Act, my noble Friend is bound to accept the decisions of the OFT included in its report on these issues.

The report also included the representations made to the OFT by the parties to the merger and other interested third parties as well as by the tripartite authorities (the Financial Services Authority, the Bank of England and HM Treasury) who made submissions concerning the public interest issues raised by the merger. My noble Friend also received a small number of written representations directly.

Having received the OFT's report and the other representations, my noble Friend the Secretary of State was then required to make a decision under section 45 of the Act, on whether to refer the merger to the Competition Commission. In considering this matter, he was required to reach a decision on whether, taking account of both the competition and public interest issues, the merger may be expected to operate against the public interest. Under the terms of the Act, any anti-competitive outcome shall be treated as being adverse to the public interest unless it is justified by one or more than one public interest consideration which is relevant.

My noble Friend the Secretary of State announced his decision on this matter on Friday 31 October and at the same time published a non-confidential version of the OFT's report and annexes. He has placed a copy of the full decision document in the Libraries of both Houses and the OFT report may be found on both the BERR and OFT websites. My noble Friend has decided not to refer the merger to the Competition Commission on the grounds that the possible anti-competitive effects identified in OFT's report are outweighed by the public interest in preserving the stability of the UK financial system.

There is no question of ignoring the potential effects of the merger on competition the OFT has identified. My noble Friend takes these seriously. The merged bank will still be subject to the provisions of competition law with the competition authorities continuing to have the powers to investigate any breaches. The Office of Fair Trading will continue to keep the relevant markets under review in order to protect the interests of UK consumers and the British economy.

But the stability of the UK's financial markets is the Government's priority and it is right that this merger should have been considered on the basis of how that crucial public interest is best served. It is clear from the evidence that HBOS plays a major role in the UK financial sector and that its failure would have a number of very significant consequences that would severely damage the stability of the financial system and the wider economy. It is also clear that the merger provides an effective, market-based means of restoring the stability of HBOS and helps to secure the stability of the UK financial system as a whole. On balance, my noble Friend the Secretary of State believes these considerations justify the potential anti-competitive outcome the OFT has identified and that the public interest is best served by clearing the merger. It is now a matter for Lloyds TSB and HBOS to take the merger proposal to their shareholders.

TREASURY

Government Fraud Report

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle): Today I am publishing the Government Fraud Report for 2007-08. Copies of the document entitled, "Fraud Report 2007-08: an analysis of reported fraud in government departments" have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and will be available on the HM Treasury website.

Tax Information Exchange Agreement / Double Tazation Agreement (UK-Virgin Islands)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): A new Tax Information Exchange Arrangement and an Agreement for the Avoidance of Double Taxation of Individuals were signed with the British Virgin Islands on 29 October 2008. After signature, the text of the agreements were deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

School Adjudicator's Report

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The independent Schools Adjudicator has today published his annual report and the review of compliance with the admissions code for 2009 admissions that I commissioned from him in the spring of this year. I am able to update the House accordingly.

The School Standards and Framework Act 1998 introduced the first school admissions code of practice and established the independent schools adjudicator to consider complaints about admission arrangements. We further strengthened the Code of Practice in 2003 and then, with wide support from across the education sector and faith groups, replaced it with the mandatory School Admissions Code in the Education and Inspections Act 2006.

The code sets out clear requirements and promotes equality and fairness for all children by prohibiting unfair admission practices. It places a duty on local authorities to refer any admission arrangements to the Schools Adjudicator that are unlawful, do not comply with the code or appear to be unfair, unclear, subjective or to encourage social segregation.

As the law currently stands, the Adjudicator can only consider complaints about admission arrangements made directly to him within a prescribed period. In his annual report last year Sir Philip Hunter reported that 173 admission arrangements had been referred to him. This year Sir Philip has received 369 objections about admission arrangements.

In January 2008 the Minister of State for Schools and Learners wrote to all admission authorities reminding them of their responsibilities to ensure compliance with the code. I asked officials to undertake an examination of published admission arrangements for 2008 in three local authorities. The results of this exercise showed that the majority of arrangements were compliant with the code but that a significant minority were not.

In my statements on school admissions on 11 March and 2 April this year, I set out the reforms we would now take to ensure that all parents and children benefit from fair admission arrangements in line with the Admissions Code.

We announced reforms to ensure the Adjudicator's powers can be more effectively exercised. We extended the statutory period in which formal objections can be made from this year to ensure there is sufficient time for local and religious authorities and parents to examine admission arrangements and refer objections to the Adjudicator. The proposals in the Education and Skills Bill currently before Parliament would allow him to consider complaints about admission arrangements whenever and however he receives them.

In the meantime, I also asked the Schools Adjudicator to report to me on the steps he was taking to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements in respect of 2009 admission arrangements.

It is this review of compliance with the code for 2009 admissions that the Schools Adjudicator is publishing today.

In his review, the Schools Adjudicator has examined a large sample of school admission arrangements in England - looking at arrangements of all 150 local authorities, which control admissions in the majority of schools, and a further 3000 foundation and aided schools.

He identified no apparent breaches of the code in the vast majority of community schools. However, he identified aspects in more than half of the foundation and aided schools that might not comply with the code. Of these about half appeared to have clear breaches of the code. Sir Philip has worked with local and religious authorities and schools over the summer to ensure that all are corrected in time for the 2009 admissions round. He has today published his annual report in which he confirms that the necessary action has been taken to ensure compliance with the code.

These findings support the action we are taking to strengthen the system to ensure compliance with the law.

Sir Philip Hunter has made a number of recommendations for further improvements to the admissions system in his report and I will consider these and respond in due course.

I am most grateful to Sir Philip, his office, local and religious authorities and schools for the work they have undertaken to ensure fair access to schools for all children, whatever their background. A copy of his report has been placed in the libraries of both Houses.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): I and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change represented the UK at the Environment Council in Luxembourg on 20 October 2008.

At this Council, member states set out their positions on the 2020 climate and energy package. The UK intervened to highlight the importance of reaching agreement by the end of 2008 to send a strong signal in support of a new international climate change deal. The UK broadly agreed that qualitative and quantitative criteria for carbon leakage should be included in the directive, and argued in favour of full auctioning in the power sector from 2013. The UK emphasised that it could not accept mandatory earmarking of auction revenues—hypothecation. The UK spoke strongly in favour of using the New Entrant Reserve (NER) to finance Carbon Capture and Storage (CCS) demonstration projects. The UK signalled that we will do our fair share of the emission reductions under the greenhouse gas effort sharing proposal, but these targets should be met cost-effectively. Finally, the UK and many others emphasised the importance of coherent sustainability criteria for biofuels.

Ministers adopted Council conclusions on preparations for 14th Conference of the Parties (COP 14) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the fourth meeting of the parties to the Kyoto protocol (CMP 4) to be held in Poznan from 1 to 12 December 2008. The conclusions emphasise the EU's ambitions for Copenhagen and

Poznan, and outline a shared vision, addressing mitigation action in developed and developing countries, adaptation, technology and funding and investment.

On the European Commission's proposal for a regulation to reduce CO_2 emissions from new cars, the UK intervened to stress the importance of getting agreement and of an ambitious long-term target.

Ministers shared views on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The UK said there were two key responsibilities for Governments: deciding whether GMOs were safe to eat, and determining what the environmental impact of growing them would be. The UK emphasised that it was important to have efficient and effective evidence-based decision-making and to avoid further delays to the approvals process. Finally, the UK pressed the European Commission to propose seed labelling thresholds.

Ministers held a public debate on trade in seal products. The UK welcomed the proposal and urged swift adoption to respond to strong public concerns over inhumane hunting methods. The UK believed derogations would make enforcement difficult and could create loopholes. We preferred a complete ban.

Ministers adopted the annexe to the Euro-Mediterranean declaration on water—the 'Barcelona process'. Discussion of Council conclusions on the sustainable consumption and production (SCP) and sustainable industrial policy (SIP) action plan was postponed until Environment Council on 4 and 5 December 2008.

Under 'any other business', the presidency provided information on: the common agriculture policy (CAP) health check; the EU-Africa climate meeting due to be held in Algiers on 20 November 2008; the Réunion Conference on Europe's overseas areas faced with climate change and loss of biodiversity; GMES (global monitoring for environment and security) services; and a proposal for a soils directive.

Under 'any other business', the presidency and the European Commission also presented information on proposals for: substances that deplete the ozone layer; industrial emissions (integrated pollution prevention and control); the outcome of the Conference on soil and climate change held in Brussels on 12 June this year, and; a Commission communication and legislative proposal to prevent marketing in the EU of unlawfully harvested timber and timber products.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

CDC Group

The Secretary of State for International Development (Mr. Douglas Alexander): In a statement to the House on 8 January 2004, *Official Report*, column 14WS the then Secretary of State for International Development, my right hon. Friend the Member for Leeds, Central (Hilary Benn), described the investment policy for CDC, formerly called the Commonwealth Development Corporation. The 2004 investment policy set out CDC's investment targets, which were that all new investments should be in developing countries—those with an annual GNI per capita of less than $9,075. Within this, CDC should make at least 70 per cent. of new investments in countries with an annual GNI per capita of less than $1,750 and at least 50 per cent. in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia. Under this policy some 47 per cent. of CDC's total investments were in low-income countries in the four years since 2003, to end 2007.

CDC has outperformed these targets and other objectives agreed by Government by considerable margins. I am now making a further written statement to inform the House of a revision to CDC's investment targets and its investment code to enhance further CDC's contribution to the Government's objectives of reducing poverty in developing countries.

The Government's objectives for CDC, which were set out in the 2000 White Paper and remain unchanged, are two-fold: CDC should invest in the creation and growth of viable private businesses in poorer developing countries to contribute to economic growth for the benefit of the poor; and mobilise private investment in these markets both directly and by demonstrating profitable investments. The Government rely on the CDC board both to oversee management's investment decisions in meeting these objectives and to maintain an adequate and responsible investment risk profile.

The Government continue to believe that economic development, which is impossible without a thriving private sector, is among the most important drivers of poverty reduction. It is private businesses that will create the bulk of the new jobs, income and taxes that the poorest countries need to generate for their people.

A major reorganisation in 2003-04 restructured CDC. CDC remained 100 per cent. owned by the Government but it was restructured into a fund of funds investment company with a remit to establish relationships with a range of fund managers which would then invest the capital of CDC and other investors in companies in developing countries. For the first five years, the majority of CDC's capital was to be managed by a new fund manager, Actis, which was itself spun out of CDC.

CDC's role therefore is to make responsible investments in private businesses in poorer countries. It does this by investing through investment funds, which then provide capital and other assistance, such as improving governance, to build value in the companies in which they invest. The signalling power of investment that is both decent and profitable in these countries is significant, both in encouraging local businessmen to keep their money working locally and in attracting interest from international investors. At some point, the investment fund managers investing CDC's capital judge that they have added sufficient value, and then sell their interests in the investee companies. The net sale proceeds are returned to CDC and so are available for reinvestment in other businesses.

In this way, the Government have created a self-perpetuating engine of development. The Government have committed no new money to CDC since the mid-1990s. Yet since then CDC has invested typically several hundred million pounds a year, at no additional cost to the UK taxpayer, into countries that are badly in need of investment.

During its 2003-04 reorganisation, CDC also produced a clear set of ethical, environmental and social business principles—its investment code—to which its investment fund managers and investee companies must also subscribe. With DFID input, the company has now updated its investment code. The investment code forms a core part of CDC's new investment policy. I will place copies of both in the Library of the House.

CDC's results show that the 2003-04 reorganisation has been a success. Since then, CDC has:

Grown in value from £1 billion to £2.7 billion at the end of 2007.

Made 74 per cent of new investments in the poorer developing countries and 64 per cent in sub-Saharan Africa or South Asia.

Committed £2.4 billion in the poorer countries of Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Attracted some £1.5 billion of third party capital to invest alongside CDC's own capital.

Realised investments that have returned £2.3 billion to CDC for reinvestment.

Committed funds to 58 investment fund managers and 123 investment funds.

Is supporting some 600 businesses employing almost one million people directly, supporting the lives of approximately four times that number indirectly, and paying an estimated £250 million in taxes and other charges to the local Governments each year.

I have decided to build on CDC's success to date by approving new investment policy targets for the company. Under the new targets, for investment funds that CDC backs from January 2009 through to 31 December 2013 more than 75 per cent. of total investment by CDC over the period must be in low-income countries (those with an annual GNI per capita of less than US$905) and more than 50 per cent. must be in sub-Saharan Africa.

In addition, CDC will be able to invest up to £125 million in small and medium size enterprise funds in other developing countries during the five-year investment policy period. Investment funds to which CDC has already committed capital will continue to follow the investment policy targets prevailing when those commitments were made.

The Government recognise that the new investment policy targets alter the risk and return profile. An independent assessment found that sufficient unmet demand for investment capital in low-income countries exists to make the identified targets achievable and we want CDC to be at the forefront of investing in such countries.

Further, CDC's greater concentration in low-income countries will strengthen its development impact both directly through increasing the supply of finance for business and indirectly through demonstrating that private sector investment is possible in underserved markets.

Establishing CDC's new investment targets now comes at an important moment during the current financial turmoil. It is more important than ever that countries such as the UK demonstrate continued commitment to our development partners in poorer countries.

Alongside these new targets, I am also announcing the appointment of a new Chairman for CDC, Richard Gillingwater. Mr. Gillingwater has had a distinguished career in investment banking, was the first chief executive of the Government's shareholder executive, and is Dean of Cass Business School. He will take over from Sir Malcolm Williamson who, after nearly five years, is stepping down as chairman. Sir Malcolm has made a major contribution in overseeing CDC's substantial growth since the company's 2003-04 reorganisation.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Ministerial Responsibilities

The Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (Mr. Liam Byrne): I have today published a revised edition of the "List of Ministerial Responsibilities"—November 2008. Copies have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses and the Vote Office.

The list can also be accessed at: http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/ministerial_responsibilities/

PRIME MINISTER

Cabinet Committees

The Prime Minister (Mr. Gordon Brown): Today I am publishing an updated Cabinet Committee list. This provides details of new Cabinet Committees which have been created since the last publication, including the National Economic Council. I have placed a copy of the new list in the Libraries of both Houses. The details are also available on the Cabinet Office website.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 4 November 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The ECOFIN meets on Tuesday 4 November 2008. The following items are on the agenda:

Follow up to the European Council on 15 and 16 October: preparation of international initiatives in response to the financial crisis

Following on from the European Council, ECOFIN Ministers will prepare the discussion for Heads of Government when they meet again in European Council formation on 7 November. The discussion is likely to focus on reform of the international financial architecture, and will be on the basis of a paper prepared by the French presidency.

Taxation: reduced rates of VAT

At both the informal ECOFIN meeting in September and the formal meeting in October, Ministers held discussions on the principles underlying the application of reduced rates of VAT across the EU. Following the publication in July of a Commission proposal to allow reduced rates for a specified set of goods and services, the presidency has proposed a compromise text that Ministers will discuss. The UK believes that member states should be allowed the flexibility to apply reduced rates of VAT where they do not materially affect the functioning of the single market.

Combating VAT fraud

At the November ECOFIN, Ministers will discuss measures to speed up the collection and exchange of data on intra-community supplies between member states.

General arrangements for excise duty

Ministers will be asked to agree a general approach to the Directive on Holding and Movement of Excise Goods (92-12). The aim of the Commission's proposal is to simplify and liberalise the rules on intra-community movements of goods (mainly alcohol) on which excise duty has already been paid in a member state.

Anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein

Ministers will discuss a draft EU-Liechtenstein anti-fraud agreement. The Commission will update Ministers on the progress of the negotiation, which it has been conducting under a mandate from the Council.

Climate change and stabilisation of allowance prices under the emissions trading scheme

At the request of Poland, which has prepared a contribution to the ECOFIN debate, Ministers will hold an exchange of views on potential price volatility in the emissions trading scheme. The President of the Economic Policy Committee will also outline the Committee's discussions on the economic aspects of the proposals on climate change.

Lisbon strategy

The presidency will inform ECOFIN Ministers about the multilateral surveillance work undertaken by the Economic Policy Committee on policies related to flexicurity that have been implemented in various member states. It will also touch on work in progress on the future of the Lisbon strategy post 2010.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Eco-towns

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): I am today announcing the second round of consultation on eco-towns, based on the draft Planning Policy Statement on eco-towns, and the accompanying sustainability appraisal which has been carried out for the policy and the shortlisted eco-town locations.

Eco-towns have been developed in response to two major challenges—the threat of climate change and the national housing shortage. They will pioneer more sustainable living so that we can learn the lessons for future developments and help meet housing need in areas where this shortage is particularly acute.

In April, we published a shortlist of proposed locations, alongside a consultation document "Living a Greener Future". A progress report was published in July, to set out our emerging thinking on eco-town standards. The documents being published today are the next stage of consultation in delivering eco-towns successfully. They include an updated programme of shortlisted locations and a summary of responses to the earlier consultation. Copies of these documents will be deposited in the Library of the House and made available on the Department's website at: www.communities.gov.uk/ecotowns.

The sustainability appraisal indicates that there remain some important outstanding issues that need to be addressed before the draft PPS and list of locations can be finalised. Issues of sustainability, viability and deliverability remain. The eco-town requirements are challenging and I do not expect that all locations will be endorsed. I have no fixed view on the number of locations that will go forward from this process and the next stages in this ongoing assessment and consultation process will ensure that the necessary further work is completed before decisions are taken.

Draft Planning Policy Statement

The draft Planning Policy Statement (PPS) sets out the standards for an eco-town and the planning policy context. The standards set out in this draft PPS are consistent with other relevant planning policies—including PPS1, PPS3 and PPS Planning and Climate Change. However, given our higher expectations for eco-towns, it goes further and sets the highest ever environmental standards for new development, reflecting the aspirations we described in the consultation document "Living a Greener Future".

The standards set by the eco-towns PPS, on which we are now consulting are, as a package, considerably more stretching than existing standards for development. Eco-towns will be the UK's first zero carbon towns: over a year the net carbon dioxide emissions from all energy use within the buildings, homes, commercial and public sector buildings on the developments will be zero or below. Achieving zero carbon status across all the town's buildings will represent a significantly tougher threshold than current national targets, pioneering the way for our policies that new homes in England should be zero carbon from 2016, and our ambition that new non-domestic buildings should be zero carbon from 2019. For homes, the eco-towns standards go further, in requiring that they achieve carbon reductions (from space heating, hot water and fixed lighting) of at least 70 per cent. relative to current building regulations. At least 40 per cent. of the area of an eco-town will need to be greenspace—half of it publicly accessible and there are ambitious targets on waste and water. These 'hard' green targets are supported by targets designed to support and promote sustainable development and sustainable living more widely; for example, eco-towns will be unique in being built so that, except where there are natural barriers, no home will be further than 800m from a school for children aged under eleven and the design of the town will enable over half of all the trips originating in the town to be made without a car.

The draft PPS also sets out the planning process for eco-towns. Applications for eco-towns are to be considered in the same way as any other major development proposal. The development plan remains the starting point for the determination of these applications. However, where the plan is out of date then any application should be treated on its merits, taking into account all material considerations that include the PPS.

Sustainability Appraisal and the Eco-towns Programme

An Eco-towns Sustainability Appraisal (SA) report covering the draft PPS, and the programme, including the proposed eco-town locations is also being published today. The SA report, which has been carried out by consultants Scott Wilson, identifies and evaluates the likely impact of the proposals on the local economy, community and environment and considers reasonable alternatives. It also suggests measures for improving the proposals. Taking account of the sustainability appraisal, and of the effect of promoters withdrawing their schemes from the programme, we will be consulting on the following 12 shortlisted locations in this next stage. They have been assessed in the sustainability appraisal in three bands:

A: locations that are generally suitable for an eco-town;

B: locations that might be suitable subject to meeting specific planning and design objectives;

C: locations that are only likely to be suitable as an eco-town with substantial and exceptional innovation.

A Rackheath (Greater Norwich)
B Pennbury B Newton-Bingham (Rushcliffe)
B Middle Quinton B St Austell
B Rossington
B North-East Elsenham
B Marston Vale
B Ford
B Bordon-Whitehill

B North-West Bicester (alternative to Weston Otmoor).

C Weston Otmoor

The shortlist includes two local authority schemes, proposed as reasonable alternatives in the course of the sustainability appraisal, at Rackheath (Norwich) and North-West Bicester (Cherwell). In the case of the two areas of further review identified in April, in Leeds city region we have agreed to pursue separately the local authorities' proposal for an urban eco-community of similar scale which would pilot eco-town standards, while at Rushcliffe, the Newton/Bingham scheme has been included for consultation and assessment.

Communications

Public awareness and involvement is crucial to success in this programme. We want to make it as easy as possible for people to have their say in shaping these towns, particularly the first-time buyers, key workers and young families who will particularly benefit from the affordable housing. We have therefore set up a website at: www.direct.gov.uk/ecotowns. This both explains the eco-town concept, and invites comments and ideas through the consultation process. We will also be holding a series of roadshows in public spaces like shopping centres near to the proposed locations. These will be interactive exhibitions and will provide the chance for people to offer their comments and views.

Both the website and the roadshows will concentrate on explaining the national standards and policy. Local scheme promoters are responsible for carrying out full consultation on the individual schemes.

Corrections

The papers published today provide an updated list and description of sites. In this context I wish to correct errors made in the written ministerial statement of 3 April 2008, *Official Report* columns 70-72WS, made by my right hon. Friend the Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint). This stated that the majority of development planned for the proposed Curborough development, now withdrawn, would take place on brownfield land. This is incorrect—the majority of the site is on greenfield land. The statement also incorrectly referred to the Weston-Otmoor site as brownfield when it is mainly greenfield. I apologise to the House for these errors.

Finally I want to make clear that while eco-towns have a unique potential for innovation they are only one part of a much wider programme of creating more sustainable communities which can respond to the challenge of climate change. Shortly we will be consulting on the definition of zero carbon for the purposes of the Government's policy that all new homes will be zero carbon from 2016. The Government also recognise the urgent need to tackle the energy efficiency of existing homes and will shortly be consulting on measures that could help develop this market as part of its review of energy efficiency strategy overall.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): The new Department of Energy and Climate Change has already signalled strong commitment to meeting the following three long-term challenges facing our country:

Ensuring that we have energy that is affordable, secure, and sustainable.

Bringing about the transition to a low-carbon Britain.

And achieving an international agreement on climate change at Copenhagen in December 2009.

We have already announced our commitment to achieve an 80 per cent. cut in carbon emissions by 2050. We have also tabled amendments to the Energy Bill to introduce feed-in tariffs for small scale low carbon electricity generation up to 3MW and financial support for renewable heat at all scales. We will be implementing these measures as quickly as possible.

We want to enable people to move from being passive users to active generators of energy. While the microgeneration definition in the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, particularly in respect of heat generation, was of a scale more appropriate to households, we also want to see more schools, hospitals, communities and businesses invest in projects that will generate low carbon electricity and heat for their own use. This will allow more citizens to engage actively in the fight against climate change and increase our energy security.

In the first half of 2009 we will therefore launch our renewable energy strategy, and will bring forward our more detailed proposals on feed-in tariffs for small scale low carbon electricity and incentives for renewable heat. In the light of these decisions, we will be in a position to set out in detail the expected contribution of on-site generation alongside other kinds of electricity and heat generation.

Therefore at this stage, rather than designating targets within the narrower terms of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, we intend to bring forward broader proposals in the context of the Renewable Energy Strategy.

Evidence

We are required under the Act to take account of the following information when making a decision:

The number of microgeneration systems installed in England and Wales.

The number of electricity microgenerating systems installed in Scotland.

The Microgeneration strategy.

Results of any research about the effects of setting a target on the number of installations.

In addition to the issues above, we have also considered:

Responses to the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation. As the consultation closed recently this is an initial analysis of the responses seen.

Other targets that microgeneration could contribute to and other policy support for microgeneration such as feed-in tariffs and the renewable heat incentive

Microgeneration Research

To assist consideration of whether or not it would be appropriate to designate a microgeneration target we commissioned research, jointly with industry and others, which was undertaken by Element Energy and published in June 2008. The research looked at the number of current installations of microgeneration technologies across the UK, consumer behaviour, the effect of designating targets and modelled a number of different policy support mechanisms and the effect that they might have on microgeneration uptake.

According to that research[1], setting targets for the microgeneration sector may bring forward cost reductions, through increasing confidence for suppliers and hence bringing forward investment. It notes that targets without policy backing have no value in bringing forward investment, but that targets backed up by policy could help to support investment. The report also states that a literature review and discussions with economists revealed that there is no clear evidence of price reductions of goods following the announcement of Government targets.

The research also states in section 14.2 that "a legally binding target in respect of numbers of microgeneration units installed does not on its own deliver in a clearly predictable manner Government priorities for reducing CO_2 emissions from microgeneration". It goes on to say that it is not "obvious how cost effective this approach might be, and whether the dominant technologies that emerge will be those with long term potential benefits".

Number of microgeneration installations

Element Energy produced the following approximate information on microgeneration installations in the UK in their report "numbers of microgeneration units installed in England, Wales, Scotland, and Northern Ireland":

England	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*	*UK*
72,600 - 76,100	6,130 - 6,410	12,590 - 13,100	16,700 - 17,300	108,000 - 113,000

Microgeneration Strategy

The objective of the microgeneration strategy, launched in March 2006, was "to create conditions under which microgeneration becomes a realistic alternative or supplementary energy generation source for the householder, for the community and for small businesses". As we outlined in the Microgeneration Strategy Progress Report[2], the majority of the strategy has now been implemented with many of the barriers removed, particularly planning constraints and technical barriers to connection. This has been achieved without targets, and completion of the remaining actions would not be assisted in any material way by the setting of targets.

The Government have introduced policy measures to promote small scale generation, and is bringing forward policies to that end such as the financial incentives being considered in the Energy Bill.

Renewable Energy Strategy Consultation Responses

Although it was not a requirement of the CCSE Act, we took the opportunity through the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation document to seek views on our position that we were not minded to introduce statutory targets for microgeneration at this stage in their development. Initial analysis of the replies to the consultation shows that the responses have been mixed, although the majority of those who expressed an opinion supported this position.

Decision not to set Microgeneration Targets

The Element Energy research concluded that the targets most likely to stimulate microgeneration investment by suppliers would be those which are about sales volumes. The research also suggested that a technology specific target is unlikely to be workable at this stage.

Setting a target-based on the total number of microgeneration installations has the potential to undermine other Government targets which are more flexible and outcome-driven, in particular the Government's CO_2 targets. A target to secure that a particular number of microgeneration systems are installed in England and Wales and electricity microgenerating systems are installed in Scotland could drive the installation of the cheapest forms of microgeneration, rather than the most cost effective or carbon efficient.

Further, a target focused at this scale "namely the generation of electricity below 50kW and the production of heat below 45kW" could divert investment from larger distributed energy technologies which can be more cost-effective and may therefore have a greater potential to assist the UK's contribution to combating climate change.

Small scale generation clearly has a role to play in combating climate change, the securing of a diverse and viable long-term energy supply and in alleviating fuel poverty. To play its part in the most effective way, however, broader consideration of its place within the energy mix is required. As a co-ordinated approach is necessary to best tackle the problems of climate change we believe that it would be preferable to consider the position in the light of our overall strategy.

In the first half of 2009 we will therefore launch our renewable energy strategy, and will bring forward our more detailed proposals on feed-in tariffs for small scale low carbon electricity and incentives for renewable heat. In the light of these decisions, we will be in a position to set out in detail the expected contribution of on-site generation alongside other kinds of electricity and heat generation.

Therefore at this stage, rather than designating targets within the narrower terms of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, we intend to bring forward broader proposals in the context of the Renewable Energy Strategy.

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[1] http://www.berr.gov.uk/energy/microgenerationresearch

[2] Available to download from: http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file46372.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

English National Park and Broads Authorities

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Huw Irranca-Davies): At the start of the summer recess, we launched an open consultation to seek the views of a range of stakeholders on the principle of whether some members of national park and Broads Authorities should be directly elected.

Currently, the majority of the national park authorities' membership comprises local authority and parish councillors selected by their respective councils, with the remainder being appointed by the Secretary of State in recognition of the national interest. This combination of members seems to be working well. The Broads Authority has a different membership structure under its own primary legislation to reflect the broads' navigational interest.

Nevertheless, we are aware of alternative solutions elsewhere in the UK—in particular in Scotland. The Committee scrutinising the Broads Authority Private Bill recommended that the case for directly elected members on the Authority should be re-evaluated. In response, my predecessor announced that the Government would seek stakeholder views on whether direct elections would be appropriate for all English national park and Broads Authorities. Simultaneously, we have also taken this opportunity to consult on whether there should be any parish members on the Broads Authority.

The consultation continues, and its supporting documents are available on DEFRA's website, until 28 November 2008.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs represented the UK at the General Affairs and External Relations Council in Luxembourg.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs

Preparation of the European Council on 15 and 16 October

Foreign Ministers discussed the agenda of the October European Council, including: the economic and financial situation; energy and climate security; migration; the Irish referendum on the Lisbon treaty; and follow-up to the 1 September Extraordinary European Council on Georgia and EU-Russia relations.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary broadly supported the draft European Council conclusions and welcomed the leadership shown within the EU in tackling the financial crisis; on climate change and energy, the Foreign Secretary noted the importance of a united EU position on the proposed climate and energy package, and of reaching agreement by December 2008; he also stressed the need for migration policies to take full account of the responsibilities as well as the rights that free movement carries.

Foreign Ministers are also meeting at the European Council. The agenda covers Georgia, EU-Russia relations and the Middle East peace process.

External Relations

Georgia-Russia

The presidency updated Ministers on preparations for the international talks on Georgia, due to begin in Geneva on 15 October. The Council also discussed preparations for the donors' conference for Georgia on 22 October and agreed that the time was not right to resume talks with Russia on a new Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. We support the Council Conclusions, which invited the parties to continue the implementation of their commitments under the 12 August and 8 September agreements. The conclusions also welcomed the extension of the mandate of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia, confirmed EU willingness to play an active part in the Geneva talks and looked forward to the donors' conference.

Ministers noted that Heads of State and Government would return to these issues at the European Council.

Zimbabwe

Ministers agreed Council conclusions, which the Government strongly support, condemning the announcement of ministerial portfolios over the weekend, encouraging Thabo Mbeki to work to make the power-sharing agreement of 15 September effective and confirming that the EU stood ready to consider additional measures if the impasse continued.

Belarus-Moldova

Foreign Ministers discussed the situation following the 28 September parliamentary elections. The Council adopted conclusions setting out the EU's response to recent developments. They retained the existing assets freeze; dropped the ban on ministerial contacts, with the aim of encouraging further democratic progress; and renewed the visa ban for 12 months but suspended it for six months for all but those involved in the 1999-2000 disappearances and the President of the Central Electoral Commission. Without further progress on democratic Government and human rights, the ban will be reimposed.

Ministers also adopted without discussion conclusions on Moldova, looking forward to negotiation of a new EU-Moldova agreement and further strengthening of the EU-Moldova relationship, including on visas and free trade. The conclusions also record the EU's desire to facilitate a resolution of the Transnistrian conflict.

Uzbekistan

The Government welcome the Council conclusions, which lifted the EU's visa ban on members of the Uzbek Government, following a 12-month suspension, in recognition of progress on human rights and democracy. But Ministers decided to retain the arms embargo for another year, and the conclusions look forward to further progress on human rights, democratisation and the rule of law.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

The Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (David Miliband): The conflict in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) is not just a threat to regional stability but also has appalling humanitarian consequences. Following last week's events, in which the forces of the rebel leader Laurent Nkunda made substantial gains in territory and threatened the major regional city of Goma, I visited the region with the French Foreign Minister on 1 and 2 November.

My visit allowed me to discuss the conflict with Presidents Kabila of DRC, Kagame of Rwanda and Kikwete of Tanzania. Presidents Kabila and Kagame will need to work together to achieve a lasting solution which addresses the underlying political factors. The right framework for this is already in place. The Nairobi agreement, signed by the Governments of DRC and Rwanda in November 2007, commits both to act to reduce the threat posed by the Forces Democratiques de la Liberation du Rwanda, the militia recognised in UN Security Council Resolution 1804 as the leading cause of regional instability. It remains a valid approach. Presidents Kabila and Kagame have a key role to play in implementing that agreement. I was reassured in my meeting with President Kikwete that the African Union will mediate and assist both Governments in carrying out the work they have undertaken to do to create the conditions for peace.

Other international actors can help drive the process forward, too. The UN Secretary-General has announced that he will appoint former President Obasanjo of Nigeria as his special envoy to promote better co-operation between DRC and Rwanda. I commend this initiative. It is right that the UN should stay closely engaged in the process to end this destructive conflict and encourage more constructive relations. The EU, too, should consider what support it can offer the UN, and continue its involvement in efforts to develop collaborative relations between the DRC Government and the other parties which signed agreements following the peace and security conference at Goma in January 2008.

I was struck during my visit to the camp for internally displaced people at Kibati, close to Goma, by the extent of the human suffering caused by the conflict. Access for aid workers to the displaced and the provision of food, sanitation and shelter are urgent issues. The UK is already a prominent donor of aid to DRC, much of which is targeted at improving the humanitarian situation. We have increased our contribution in this area by £5 million in the light of the recent events, in addition to the £37 million already committed. We will continue to lend support in this and other development areas.

The potential of the African Great Lakes region is enormous. The UK has invested considerable effort in it. While insecurity and violence persist in eastern DRC, the stability and prosperity of the entire region are under threat. The political processes already agreed, and the engagement of the international community, represent an opportunity to resolve them and avert further conflict. We must not let it pass.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration Reform (Points-Based System)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): Throughout this year, the Government have been delivering the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for a generation. We are delivering a stronger border that maximises the use of new technology, a selective Australian-style points system to control migration and a clear expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay.

We have already made sweeping changes to our border protection, including checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch-lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers.

We are now going further. As the latest step in this reform programme, I am today laying the immigration rules that will:

implement one of the most important parts of the points-based system (PBS);

simplify the route for business visitors;

increase the minimum age for obtaining a marriage visa from 18 to 21;

close the little-used immigration route for retired persons of independent means to new entrants; and

support the roll out of identity cards for foreign nationals.

The PBS is part of a robust system of controls that is designed to prevent illegal migration and to welcome only those people that the country needs. We introduced the highly skilled tier of the new system in between February and June.

I am now introducing the tier for skilled workers with a job offer, the youth mobility scheme and the temporary workers route for people coming here for cultural, charitable, religious and similar reasons.

These changes will be complemented by new rules for business, entertainer and sports visitors, covering people who wish to come to the UK for short periods to conduct business, perform at a festival, or take part in a sporting event or tournament. These changes will simplify our existing provisions for business visitors, making it clear what they can and cannot do.

Separately, this Statement of Changes delivers our commitment to increase the minimum age for sponsorship of a spouse and for those coming to the UK on the basis of marriage from 18 to 21.

These rules also support the delivery of ID cards for foreign nationals, by allowing us to require migrants to supply photographs of a particular standard with their applications.

Finally, we are closing the retired persons of independent means route to new entrants, as announced in the Government's response to the consultation "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming The Immigration System". This takes forward our policy that newcomers should earn the right to stay here permanently.

Full details of the changes appear in the explanatory memorandum that I am laying with them today, but I will explain some of the key points here.

Points-based system—skilled workers

Tier 2 of the points-based system is for skilled workers who are coming to do a specific job. The job must be one that cannot be filled by a British worker or one from the European economic area. Tier 2 replaces the existing work permit system, including the provisions governing intra-company transfers and the employment of sportspeople, as well as the rules for Ministers of Religion.

The new rules will strengthen our control of the process.

All migrants will need a sponsor, who will need to have been licensed beforehand by the UK Border Agency. No one will get a licence unless we are satisfied that they are bona fide, honest and capable of complying with their duties, which include informing us if the migrant disappears, or does not turn up for the job.

In most cases, the sponsor will need to have advertised the job to UK workers before being able to bring in a migrant. This will not apply where the migrant is transferring from an overseas branch of the same company, or where the job is on the list of shortage occupations that we will publish shortly. That list will be drawn up following the advice that the Government have received from the independent Migration Advisory Committee.

Unless the job is in a shortage occupation, migrants will need to score a minimum number of points for a combination of their qualifications and prospective earnings in the UK before they will be able to come here. We will be able to adjust the points threshold to ensure that only the migrants we need are able to come.

Finally, there will be an English language requirement for most migrants under tier 2, to help their integration into society.

Youth mobility scheme

The Youth mobility scheme replaces a number of routes for young people coming here to work temporarily, of which the biggest is the working holidaymaker scheme.

It will allow young citizens of, initially, four countries (Australia, Canada, Japan and New Zealand) to come to the UK and work for two years. All these countries have their own schemes that allow young Britons to spend time in their countries. Their nationals pose a minimal immigration risk, and they meet the UK Border Agency's strict criteria for co-operating with us when we seek to return their citizens. If other countries meet our criteria and wish to join, they can be added at a later date.

Temporary workers

The route for temporary workers, known as tier 5 (temporary workers) allows certain people to come here and work temporarily to meet cultural, charitable, religious or international objectives.

As with tier 2, all applicants will need a licensed sponsor. They will also need to fall into one of five subcategories, covering creative and sporting workers, charity workers, religious workers, people coming on Government authorised exchange schemes and people coming here under various international treaties to which the UK is a party.

This is a temporary route. Therefore, anyone coming here under it will be restricted to either one or two years in the UK, depending on the subcategory under which they are coming. The only exception to this is for the private servants of diplomats, who will be allowed to stay for up to six years.

Fees

I have set the fee for tier 2 (skilled workers) at £205 for entry clearance and £400 for leave to remain. This is broadly in line with our previous fees before the PBS. They are set above the cost of providing the service, to reflect the enhanced benefits and entitlements this route brings to applicants.

I have set the fee for tier 5 temporary workers and youth mobility at £99 for entry clearance. Leave to remain applications in tier 5 (temporary workers) will cost £100. Again, these fees are set broadly in line with our previous fees before the PBS. The lower fees for tier 5 fees are set below the cost of providing the service, to support wider Government objectives to ensure we continue to attract migrants to the UK for cultural reasons.

Business, sport, entertainer and special visitors

To complement PBS, we are implementing the first part of our review of the visitor route. This is intended to remove the existing uncertainty about exactly what visitors coming to the UK on business can engage in without needing to apply under the PBS.

The rules do this by providing for the UK Border Agency to produce a list of "permitted activities" which business visitors may do, thus facilitating business activity in the UK and avoiding abuse of the visitor route by people who are really coming here to work.

I am also taking this opportunity to bring the existing concessions covering sportspeople coming to take part in one-off events or tournaments, or entertainers coming, for example, to perform at festivals, into the immigration rules. This simplifies the system by creating a clear boundary between the activities that a visitor may undertake and those for which permission is needed under the PBS. I am also bringing together, under a special visitor category, currently separate rules that have been introduced for specific types of visitor.

Increase in the marriage visa age from 18 to 21

This change follows the consultation we launched in December 2007 on reform of the spouse visa system. We gave careful consideration to the consultation responses and the views expressed by the Home Affairs Select Committee in its report on domestic violence, forced marriage and honour-based violence before setting out our conclusions in July this year, including the commitment to increase the minimum age.

The change reflects our firm conviction that no one should be pressurised into sponsoring a marriage visa and that those who wish to sponsor a marriage partner from overseas should be encouraged to establish an independent adult life here first and to see that as an important way of helping their partner to integrate.

We believe it is important to protect young people from being forced into relationships they do not want at a time in their lives when they could be establishing a degree of independence as an adult through further education or through work.

Biometrics and photographs

We are changing the rule relating to the quality of photographs required with applications. This is in line with the standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organisation, and is necessary to allow the UK Border Agency to utilise facial recognition technology, to reduce the risk of identity fraud, to prevent immigration abuses and to improve the processing of applications.

Retired persons of independent means

We have made it clear that in the future there will be only three key routes to naturalisation as a British citizen: economic migrants, family members and refugees—those granted humanitarian protection. It is therefore important to pay close attention to all the different routes that have existed in the past and as part of the consultation "The Path to Citizenship: Next Steps in Reforming The Immigration System", we asked whether the retired persons of independent means route should be abolished taking into account the requirements relating to entry under the route.

We recognise that those entering under the retired persons of independent means route are required to be self-sufficient. But, as was pointed out during the consultation, these people may not have enough disposable income to match the demands they may place on public services. In the light of this, and the limited numbers applying under this route, we believe it is right to no longer permit entry as a retired person of independent means. We will therefore amend the immigration rules to this effect by deleting paragraphs 263-65.

Conclusion

These changes are the latest steps in the Government's bold and far-reaching reform of the immigration system, and will contribute to delivering the tough but humane immigration controls that the public demands.

JUSTICE

Criminal Cases Review Commission (Appointment of Chairman)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Maria Eagle): I would like to inform the House that Richard Foster CBE has been appointed as chair of the Criminal Cases Review Commission. Copies of the press release relating to this appointment are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Children and Adoption Act 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Children, Young People and Families, Baroness Morgan of Drefelin, and I wish to make the following statement about the implementation of part 1 of the Children and Adoption Act 2006.

We will bring the remaining provisions in part 1 of the Act (sections 1-5 and 8) relating to new powers for the courts to order "contact activities" to assist people in resolving contact disputes and new enforcement powers on 8 December 2008.

The new arrangements will extend to England and Wales and have been agreed by Welsh Assembly Government Deputy Minister for Social Services (Gwenda Thomas).

Some provisions in part 2 of the Act, relating to adoptions with a foreign element, are already in force. The provisions relating to the restrictions of adoptions from abroad came into force on 1 August 2008. We are working to a longer timetable for the implementation of section 13 and will announce this in due course.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 5 November 2008

TRANSPORT

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Subsequent to a written answer I gave on 6 October 2008, to a parliamentary question on road safety, I would like to inform the House that further investigation has revealed additional information.

The response to the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans)—(Question 222961), 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 212-213W—should read as follows:

The elements of the 2008-09 budget for DFT and its executive agencies which cover road safety related matters amount to £3,867 million. This includes an estimate of the proportion of Highways Agency expenditure deemed to be for road safety. It does not include all local authority spending on road safety.

It is not possible to identify a highly accurate budget figure for road safety, as spending often serves multiple purposes.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Financial Assistance Scheme

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Ms Rosie Winterton): My noble friend Lord McKenzie of Luton has made the following statement:

Since 17 July 2008 qualifying members of schemes eligible for assistance through the Financial Assistance Scheme have been able to access their assistance from up to five years before their normal retirement age where they are unable to work due to ill health. These payments are actuarially reduced for early payment so that the overall value of the amounts they will receive over their expected lifetime is maintained.

We are today beginning consultation on a set of draft regulations which would allow qualifying members who are aged over 55, whether within five years of their normal retirement age or not, to access FAS assistance early, without actuarial reduction, where they have a serious illness that significantly reduces their life expectancy.

The consultation will end on Wednesday, 3 December. A limited written consultation period is appropriate for these draft regulations as they follow from comments made in earlier consultation and reflect discussions with key stakeholders. This will enable us to increase people's payments as soon as possible.

The consultation documents are available on the Department's website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/consultations/2008/ or alternatively on the FAS website at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/fas. Copies will be placed in the House Library.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 6 November 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Companies Act 2006

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (Ian Pearson): As my predecessor announced by written statement on 13 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 45WS, the Companies Act 2006 is being commenced in tranches between Royal Assent on 8 November 2006 and 1 October 2009. I have today laid before Parliament the eighth commencement order, which commences the final provisions with effect from 1 October 2009. There are two minor sets of provisions in the Act that we are not proposing to commence. When a suitable opportunity arises, the Government will propose to Parliament the repeal of these provisions.

The first set are sections 327(2)(c) and 330(6)(c). Sections 324 to 331 deal with the use of proxies, whereby shareholders who do not attend company meetings can delegate their vote to someone who will attend. This can be a vote on a show of hands, or on a poll, where the number of shares of each person voting is taken into account. The 2006 Act restated the rules on proxies contained in the Companies Act 1985 and its Northern Ireland equivalent, the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, with a number of changes, including making it easier for a member to appoint more than one proxy.

Companies' articles generally provide a deadline by which documents appointing proxies need to be received before a meeting. Section 327 prevents this deadline being set at more than 48 hours before the meeting. If a poll is called for at a meeting and if it is to be taken more than 48 hours later, then subsection 327(2)(b) provides that the deadline for appointing proxies will be not more than 24 hours before the poll. The intention behind subsection 327(2)(c) was to provide, that where a poll is taken within 48 hours of its being called at a meeting, the deadline would be 48 hours before the meeting, as for proxy voting at the meeting. As drafted, however, subsection 327(c) would have the unintended effect that the deadline would be the time at which the poll was called for. That is why the subsection has not been commenced so far, and why the Government believe that it should not be commenced, and that subsection 330(6)(c) which makes similar provision for withdrawing authority from a proxy should not be commenced.

The second set of provisions that are not being commenced are section 1175 so far as it relates to Northern Ireland and the associated part 2 of schedule 9. Part 16 of the Act replaces the rules on audit requirements from the Companies Act 1985 with a number of changes, including that there are no longer special rules for the audit of companies that are charities. This is because in future special rules for charities, whether companies or not, are to be included in charities legislation. As it seemed likely that charity law in England and Wales would be amended to replace these rules before the commencement of part 16 of the Companies Act 2006, schedule 9 included provisions to amend the Companies Act 1985 to remove the special rules for audit of charitable companies. In the event, the Charities Act 2006 (Charitable Companies Audit and Group Accounts Provisions) Order 2008 (SI 2008/527) came into force on 1 April 2008, and so part 1 of schedule 9 was commenced on that date by the Sixth Companies Act 2006 Commencement Order. Part 1 of the schedule covers England and Wales, and also Scotland where their charities legislation was also ready to take over.

Similar provisions to amend the Companies (Northern Ireland) Order 1986 were included in part 2 of schedule 9 to the Companies Act 2006, but at the time part 16 was commenced there were no provisions in Northern Ireland charity law to apply audit requirements to smaller charitable companies. The sixth Commencement Order therefore saved the existing rules on the audit of smaller charitable companies in the 1986 Order, and there will never be any need to commence section 1175 in relation to Northern Ireland, or part 2 of schedule 9.

TREASURY

Financial Support (Icelandic Bank)

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): On 8 October 2008, I announced to Parliament that the Government would ensure that no depositor in icesave, the internet product made available by the UK branch of the Icelandic bank, Landsbanki, would lose any money as a result of the closure of icesave. I have today laid a Treasury Minute to explain several contingent liabilities into which the Government has entered in order to give effect to part of this commitment.

The Government is also making an advance of approximately £800 million to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in order to enable the FSCS to pay out that part of a depositor's rights arising from deposits of over the FSCS depositor compensation limit of £50,000. The Bank of England is initially providing loan facilities to enable the FSCS to pay out that part of a depositor's rights arising from deposits of under the FSCS depositor compensation limit. The Treasury will refinance these facilities.

Authority for this advance and for refinancing is sought in the winter supplementary estimate, which will be presented to the House later this month. Statutory authority for the expenditure will be provided on a retrospective basis by the Banking Bill.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Local Government

The Minister for Local Government (John Healey): Earlier this year, Parliament debated and approved Structural Change Orders to create from 1 April 2009 nine new unitary councils—Bedford borough council, Cheshire East council, Cheshire West and Chester council, Central Bedfordshire council, Cornwall council, County Durham council, Northumberland council, Shropshire council and Wiltshire council. Working closely with those responsible locally for implementing these new unitary councils, we are completing the legislative framework needed to support the transition to these new councils.

Accordingly, I have today laid before the House, the Local Government (Structural Changes) (Transitional Arrangements) (No.2) Regulations 2008, made under part 1 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007.

This represents a significant milestone in the completion of the necessary legislative framework. These regulations make transitional provisions in relation to the following matters:

Continuity and responsibility for functions;

Electoral matters;

Statutory plans, reviews, schemes, statements and strategies;

Membership of certain licensing and planning committees;

Functions relating to town and country planning;

Functions relating to education;

Miscellaneous transitional provisions; and

Consequential amendment of the Local Government (Changes for England) Regulations 1994.

I am confident that these regulations represent the most practical and pragmatic way forward for both predecessor councils and their successor new unitaries to implement the new arrangements and achieve a seamless transition protecting the delivery of local services.

No one underestimates the scale of the task those leading the changes in these areas face over the coming months. But we in central Government will continue to play our part in supporting the transition, completing the legal framework, and helping those in the front line to set up and run successfully the new unitary councils from April.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Security Industry Authority

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Mr. Alan Campbell): In their recent report "Regulating the Security Industry" published on 17 October 2008, the National Audit Office concluded that as a regulator the Security Industry Authority (SIA) is an effective organisation. Notwithstanding that, the Home Office has had concerns about the SIA's organisational capabilities. Drawing on the model of Government Departmental Capability Reviews, in agreement with the chair of the SIA, an independent delivery review has recently been conducted looking at the leadership and management of the organisation.

The SIA board are currently considering how to respond fully to the recommendations of the review and I have asked that they report to me with a detailed action plan within the next two weeks.

With the delivery review underway, we have become aware of some failings in the SIA's compliance with Home Office requirements for security clearance for SIA employees. Home Office guidance issued to the SIA stipulates that no person should be employed, in a permanent or temporary capacity, without appropriate confirmed security clearance. All permanent SIA staff have confirmed security clearance. It became clear, however, that some agency workers had not received appropriate security clearance before commencing employment with the SIA. The SIA currently has 38 agency workers. As soon as the Home Office became aware of the issue, it asked the SIA to take immediate action. All those without confirmed security clearance were removed from SIA premises and had all access to SIA systems withdrawn. Security checks are now being conducted and as of 9 am this morning, 32 had confirmed clearance and the remaining six were pending.

The SIA has a commercial delivery partner, LDL—a subsidiary of British Telecom (BT). LDL are responsible, through BT, for ensuring security clearance of their staff. The Home Office's Departmental Security Unit is satisfied that LDL recruitment and clearance procedures are robust.

There are significant safeguards in place within the SIA to ensure that decisions to award licences are taken appropriately and not open to abuse. No single individual can decide to award a licence. Two individuals must be involved in each decision—one from the SIA, who takes the ultimate decision to award a licence and one from the LDL. These individuals are based in separate sites in different cities. Managers sample decisions taken every day to ensure SIA procedures are followed and an external audit of decisions is also undertaken.

Nevertheless, I have asked the SIA to review urgently a targeted sample of decisions taken by any individual for whom the SIA did not have confirmed security clearance, whether or not that individual is still working for the SIA.

The Home Office's Departmental Security Unit has advised that the SIA's security checking procedures are now fully compliant with Home Office standards.

The Home Office will work closely with the chair and board of the SIA as they respond to the delivery review recommendations to ensure that similar problems do not arise in the future. Plans are being made for an interim chief executive to be appointed once discussions between the current chief executive and the SIA board about his imminent departure are concluded.

National Identity Scheme (Cost Report)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (Meg Hillier): The fifth Cost Report of the National Identity Scheme is being laid before Parliament today. It sets out an estimate of the public expenditure likely to be incurred on the scheme over the next 10 years, in accordance with section 37 of the Identity Cards Act 2006. It reports on developments over the past six months, since the fourth Cost Report was published on 6 May 20078.

JUSTICE

Crown Court (Means-testing)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): My noble Friend, the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State, Lord Bach, has made the following written ministerial statement:

"In October 2006, the Government introduced a means-testing scheme for legal aid for defendants being tried at the magistrates courts. As this scheme has now been successfully embedded, delivering £65 million of savings to date by ensuring that those who can afford to pay for their defence costs do so, the Government intend to fulfil their commitment to extend means-testing to defendants appearing at the Crown Court.

Proposals setting out the design of the Crown Court means-testing scheme are today being published for consultation by the Ministry of Justice and the Legal Services Commission. It is accompanied by a separate, but associated consultation paper from the Ministry of Justice setting out the potential options for reforming payments from central funds to acquitted defendants. The annual budget for central funds is set at £45 million but has consistently exceeded this amount in recent years. Given the interrelationship between central funds payments and means-testing, we believe that now is the right time to look more closely at this area.

These consultation exercises are targeted at all groups and individuals who work within the criminal justice system, as well as all those who may otherwise have an interest in this subject. Both consultations will run for 12 weeks, concluding on Thursday 29 January 2009. Copies of the consultation paper have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses, the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office."

TRANSPORT

Written Answer (Correction)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): Subsequent to a written answer I gave on 15 October 2008 to a parliamentary question regarding the disclosure of vehicle keeper data by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, further investigation has revealed additional information that may be of interest and provide a more helpful answer to the question.

The response to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker)—(Question 226731), 15 October 2008, *Official Report* column 1255W—should read as follows:

DVLA is able to disclose data held on the vehicle register to both public and private sector organisations that are able to demonstrate reasonable cause for requesting that information.

The table below shows the total number of requests rejected along with the number of requests made by private sector organisations and by individuals. These figures also include requests made by individuals for information on their own vehicles.

DVLA discloses data to public sector organisations under numerous different legislative gateways, including the reasonable cause provision. Disclosures are recorded by reference to the vehicle being inquired against and not by the legislative provision enabling that disclosure. Therefore I am unable to provide figures on the number of disclosures made under the reasonable cause provision to public sector organisations.

	Electronic enquiries	*Manual enquiries.*	*Reject 1**	*Reject 2**	*Reject 3**
Oct-07	138,887	28,501	336	0	2,589
Nov-07	113,969	26,607	395	4	2,795
Dec-07	95,827	20,292	293	1	1,645
Jan-08	120,430	30,594	302	2	2,449
Feb-08	123,180	28,745	517	46	2,931
Mar-08	100,828	24,106	373	53	2,286
Apr-08	122,341	36,206	483	1	3,151
May-08	110,544	23,376	434	40	4,862
Jun-08	112,897	27,821	340	9	6,871
Jul-08	138,594	38,958	389	36	5,603
Aug-08	109,042	23,442	228	0	2,723
Sep-08	124,867	25,921	523	132	4,672

* Rejects:

1. No/incorrect fee
2. Not meeting reasonable cause criteria
3. Other (for example, incorrect vehicle registration mark)

WORK AND PENSIONS

Pension Protection System

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Ms Rosie Winterton): As hon. Members are aware, the administrative resource costs of the Pensions Regulator (PR), the Pension Protection Fund (PPF), the Pensions Advisory Service (PAS) and the Pensions Ombudsman (PO) are funded by grant in aid which is then recovered through levies raised on pension schemes. The rates for these levies are set in regulations:

> *PPF Administration Levy*—The administration costs of the PPF are initially met from the DWP administration vote. Section 117 of the Pensions Act 2004 provides that the Secretary of State may impose a levy on eligible pension schemes, for the purpose of meeting his expenditure in establishing the PPF and repaying grant in aid in respect of PPF administration costs. The levy is invoiced and collected by PR on behalf of the Secretary of State.
>
> *The General Levy*—The administration costs of PR, PAS and the PO, are initially met from the DWP Administration Vote. Section 175 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 (as amended in the Pensions Act 2004) allows for an annual general levy on occupational and personal pension schemes to recover this expenditure. The levy is also invoiced and collected by PR on behalf of the Secretary of State.

This year, the Government are pleased to announce that we will freeze the rates for both the general levy and PPF administration levy at their 2008-09 levels. These levels are sufficient to recover the grant in aid paid to each of the organisations.

This maintains the Government's intention, outlined to the House last year, to provide levy cost stability for pension schemes. In holding rates stable, the Government seeks to avoid additional cost pressures on pension schemes at the current time. This is also in line with the consultation launched in September 2008 by the board of the PPF to hold the Pension Protection levy quantum stable (indexed in line with wage inflation).

The general levy rates since 2005 were set on the assumption that the PAS's running costs were included in the amount to be raised by the levy, and since DWP took over funding responsibility from the regulatory authority it paid the PAS £8.5m grant in aid for the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2008. The Government's intention is that this grant in aid should be met by pension schemes through the general levy, reflecting long-standing practice in relation to the PAS funding. The PAS provides good value dispute resolution and information provision services that are beneficial to both pension schemes and their members. It is therefore right that its costs should be met by pension schemes.

A consequential amendment to section 174 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 should have been made to enable DWP to recover the grant in aid payments from 1 April 2005. Because the need for this amendment was overlooked, the levy-raising power in section 175 of the Pension Schemes Act 1993 does not apply to payments made to the PAS unless they are made by the pensions regulator.

To regularise the funding position so that there is a statutory basis for recovering grant in aid payments through the general levy, arrangements were made for the pensions regulator to pay grant in aid to the PAS from 1 July 2008.

Earlier consultations on amendments to the regulations setting the levy rates have stated that the general levy should cover the PAS's funding. Taking this into account the Government has decided that it would be inappropriate to refund the £8.5m of grant in aid paid to the PAS for the period 1 April 2005 to 30 June 2008 and recovered through the general levy.

The Government considers that holding the general and PPF administrative levy rates at 2008-09 levels presents positive news for pension schemes. The stability it offers will be welcomed by levy payers, pension scheme trustees, members and sponsoring employers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 10 November 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Housing and Planning Delivery Grant

The Minister for Housing (Margaret Beckett): I am today announcing final allocations of the first round of £101 million of Housing Planning Delivery Grant (HPDG) for 2008-09. HPDG was established in 2007 to reward local authorities for improved delivery of housing and other planning outcomes as part of their strategic, place shaping role and to provide more support to communities and local councils who are actively seeking to deliver new homes. The grant replaces Planning Delivery Grant which has been paid since 2002-03. The housing element of the grant was developed following concerns from local authorities that housing growth was inadequately recognised by the local government finance system. HPDG is designed to strengthen the incentive for local authorities to respond to local housing pressures by returning the benefits of growth to communities and to incentivise efficient and effective planning procedures

The grant is performance-related. The £40 million housing element of the grant goes to all local authorities with net additional housing completions above 0.75 per cent. of their existing housing stock. The net additions are averaged over the previous three years. For each net addition above the threshold, the local authority receives one unit (£916) of housing grant. The amount per unit is calculated by the total amount of money for the year divided by the total number of units above the threshold.

The £61 million planning element of the grant consists of four separate parts with incentives for local authorities to deliver:

Sufficient land for housing (40 per cent. of the planning element);

Core Strategies and Development Plan Documents allocating more than 2,000 dwellings (50 per cent.);

joint working on the production of development plan documents (6 per cent.) and;

a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (4 per cent.)

The formula for allocating HPDG was consulted on last year. A review of the formula will be undertaken ahead of next year's allocations.

The announcement today includes the revised allocations of awards following the evaluation of the challenges to the provisional allocations which we published in July. The successful challenges resulted in an increase to the overall allocation which has been offset partially by redistribution of abatement. Downward adjustment of the provisional allocations for all authorities has therefore been kept to a minimum.

Grant allocations are not ring-fenced and authorities have discretion in the way they spend this money. However, to encourage investment for the future, 32.5 per cent. of the total grant paid to any individual authority must be spent on capital. The remaining 67.5 per cent. can be spent by the local authority on resource or capital budgets. Payments to local authorities will be made on Tuesday, 11 November 2008.

A table showing the amounts payable has been placed in the Library of the House.

DEFENCE

Informal EU Defence Ministerial

The Secretary of State for Defence (Mr. John Hutton): My predecessor, my right hon. Friend the Member for Kilmarnock and Loudoun (Des Browne), represented the UK at an informal meeting of EU Defence Ministers held on 1 and 2 October 2008, in Deauville, France. It provided an important opportunity for discussions on EU-led operations, a range of military capability issues and presidency initiatives for "Europe and its citizens".

In the first session on operations, Javier Solana, the EU high representative for common foreign and security policy, briefed Ministers on the positive start to the EU monitoring mission in Georgia. On Chad, the French presidency sought greater clarity on which EU countries would remain militarily engaged for a post-March 2009 UN follow-on mission. On Bosnia-Herzegovina, Deputy Supreme Allied Commander Europe (DSACEUR), General Sir John McColl, briefed Ministers on options for drawing down the current 2,500-strong EU Operation Althea military force. It was agreed that further discussion on possible draw-down and civilianisation would be required at the next EU Defence Ministers' discussion on 10 November. Responding to the growing menace of piracy in the seas off Somalia, Ministers discussed the prospects for an ESDP counter-piracy mission, noting the need for the EU to co-ordinate closely with other actors already in-theatre, notably NATO and combined joint taskforce 150.

In the two sessions on military capabilities, the French presidency outlined a number of bilateral and multilateral initiatives to improve European military capabilities, in partnership with the European Defence Agency. My right hon. Friend outlined progress on the UK-France helicopter initiative, and some additional funding contributions were announced by Luxembourg and Finland. The Secretary-General of NATO welcomed the initiative and stressed the need for complementarity with NATO's efforts to deliver more operational capability from the large number of European helicopters. Ministers debated the difficulty of generating sufficient forces and reserves for operations such as EUFOR Chad. My right hon. Friend maintained that the battlegroup concept remained valid, but that the UK was ready to engage in a debate about the usability of European forces. He also emphasised that that European defence budgets should be spent on improving capability, not on boosting staff numbers and budgets of Brussels institutions; a theme supported by others.

In the final session on "Europe and its citizens", Ministers heard presidency proposals for exchanges between European military academies, improved EU co-ordination of non-combatant evacuation operations, and the need for a stock-take on European maritime surveillance arrangements. Javier Solana briefed Ministers on his work to update the European Security Strategy, and expressed his confidence that a draft would be agreed in time for December's European Council.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

UK Nuclear Trade Policy (India)

The Minister of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (Bill Rammell): Following the statement on civil nuclear co-operation with India on 6 September 2008 by the nuclear suppliers group (NSG) which provides an exception from the NSG guidelines for exports to civil nuclear facilities in India that are safeguarded by the IAEA, the UK Government have reviewed its policy towards nuclear-related exports to India. The details of the new policy position are as follows and will take effect immediately:

Since March 2002 UK policy has been to refuse all licence applications for trigger list items to India. That policy has changed and we will now consider on a case-by-case basis licence applications for peaceful use of all items on the NSG trigger list and NSG dual-use list when they are destined for IAEA safeguarded civil nuclear facilities in India. Applications will be considered against the NSG guidelines for nuclear transfers, in accordance with the NSG statement of 6 September 2008.

In line with our nuclear suppliers group commitments we will continue to refuse:

> applications in respect of all items on the NSG trigger list and NSG dual-use list, when they are destined for unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities, or when there is an unacceptable risk of diversion to such activities.

We will also continue to consider on a case-by-case basis all applications to export other items assessed as licensable, including those assessed as licensable under the WMD end-use control, taking into account in particular:

> the risk of use in, or diversion to, unsafeguarded nuclear fuel cycle or nuclear explosive activities, or acts of nuclear terrorism;
>
> the risk of possible onward transfer of these items to other states for proliferation purposes, including the recipient state's export control performance; and
>
> the potential utility of the items concerned for, and contribution that they would make to, such activities.

We will continue to consider applications for exports that will contribute to the physical protection or security of military nuclear facilities or assets in India. Licences may be issued in exceptional cases, consistent with our obligations and commitments.

We will continue to encourage contacts between UK nuclear scientists, academics and those working in or with the UK nuclear industry with their Indian counterparts, except where we consider that such contacts might be of assistance to the weapons-related aspects of its nuclear programme. Where such contacts involve the transfer of technology which require export licences we will continue to consider applications for such licences on a case-by-case basis, in accordance with the provisions of UK export control legislation.

Licensing policy towards Pakistan remains unchanged.

Agenda for the General Affairs and External Relations Council

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): The General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) will be held on 10 and 11 November in Brussels. My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and the Minister for International Defence and Security, Baroness Taylor, and my hon. Friend the Minister of State for International Development and I will represent the UK.

The agenda items are as follows:

GENERAL AFFAIRS

Preparation of the European Council on 11 and 12 December 2008

The Council will discuss the presidency's draft agenda for the December European Council. This agenda is likely to be dominated once again by the EU's response to the next stage of the economic downturn and the financial crisis, including the need for reform of international financial institutions. We also expect the agenda to feature the 2020 climate change and energy package; and the next stage on the Lisbon treaty ratification process. We also anticipate a discussion on the European Security and Defence Policy, including on an updated European Security Strategy; and on a range of external relations items including Russia/Georgia.

The Government support the presidency's priorities for the December European Council. We remain fully committed to reaching an agreement on the 2020 climate change package by the end of 2008. We expect substantive discussions on the way forward for Ireland and an agreement on a 2009 roadmap for treaty ratification.

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

European Security and Defence Policy (ESDP)—Civilian crisis management capabilities

Ministers will assess progress made in developing the EU's ability to deploy high-quality civilians in crisis management operations. The ministerial declaration will set out areas for future work, and agree that Ministers reassess progress annually. The Government welcome this opportunity to underline the importance we attach to further improving the EU's ability to stabilise countries emerging from conflict.

Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

The Council will discuss the recent violence in the DRC, its security and humanitarian implications and the EU's role in resolving the crisis. The Government recognise the extent and gravity of the suffering in the region and have increased the UK's aid contribution to the DRC. We expect the Council conclusions to underline the EU's concern at the displacement caused by the resumption of fighting and the unacceptable human rights abuses continuing in the region. They will also reiterate the need to maintain efforts towards a political solution through the Goma and Nairobi processes. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in his written statement to the House of Commons on 4 November, *Official Report*, column 17WS these processes remain a viable approach to resolving the issues underlying the violence in DRC.

Ministers will consider the EU's role in supporting the work of the African Union and the newly appointed UN special envoy on Eastern DRC. The support of the international community is vital to developing co-operation between the Governments of DRC and Rwanda. The question of military support from the EU to the region will also be under discussion. The UN already has the world's largest peace keeping force deployed in DRC, and our view is that military support to the political processes must come through an enhanced UN response. But it is right that EU Foreign Ministers should consider contingency preparations.

Burma

We expect conclusions to deplore the lack of progress towards democracy; underline the EU's strong support for the UN Secretary-General's efforts to break the political deadlock in the country; and welcome the strong and unified call for progress from leaders at the Asia-Europe meeting in Beijing on 25 October. We expect no discussion.

Preparation of the 14 November EU-Russia summit

We expect the discussion to focus on the resumption of negotiations on a new partnership agreement with Russia, which were postponed by the 1 September extraordinary European Council. As EU member states agreed at the October GAERC and European Council, this decision will be informed by the audit of EU-Russia relations and Russia's engagement in the process of talks in Geneva to find a settlement for the situation in Georgia.

Joint Session of EU Foreign and Defence Ministers

ESDP—Draft conclusions and presidency initiatives

Foreign and Defence Ministers will receive a presentation by the presidency on the various capability initiatives launched during its tenure.

Western Balkans

Discussion is likely to focus on the situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH), including the recent lack of reform progress and increased nationalist rhetoric. The Government believe that the situation in BiH is of serious concern and merits increased EU focus and attention, including fully supporting High Representative/EU Special Representative Miroslav Lajcak and considering how the EU's presence and efforts in BiH can be strengthened. The Government believe closure of the Office of the High Representative should remain dependent on BiH's leaders fulfilling the agreed conditions and that decisions on the EU's military presence in BiH (EUFOR) should only be taken once there is clarity on the future of the international presence in Bosnia.

Afghanistan

Ministers are likely to discuss the security situation and, more widely, increasing the EU's impact in Afghanistan. EU member states and the European Commission are major donors and troop contributors, but collectively have the potential to make more of a difference. Improving the co-ordination of the EU's efforts in Afghanistan, particularly the relationship between the EU special representative, the European Commission and the EU Police Reform Mission (EUPOL), will enable the EU to better assist the Government of Afghanistan in rebuilding the country, and addressing the underlying causes of insecurity.

Defence Ministers

Capabilities and the European Defence Agency

The Director of the European Defence Agency (EDA) will report to Defence Ministers on the agency's activities in 2008, and the proposed 2009 Budget. Ministers will also discuss capabilities projects such as the proposed European air transport fleet and Europe defence research and technology strategy.

Following their attendance at the biannual EDA steering board, Ministers will discuss the French presidency's proposals for improving European military capabilities. We welcome this focus on encouraging Europeans to develop more effective military and civilian capabilities and deploy them in multilateral operations, whether for the EU, NATO or UN. The UK has worked closely with France on a number of bilateral initiatives, and we expect to sign a declaration of intent with EU partners on the European Carrier Group Interoperability Initiative. We continue to scrutinise carefully presidency proposals on wider capability initiatives, space security policy and the usability of multinational forces.

Ministers will also discuss presidency plans for a "military Erasmus" voluntary exchange scheme for young European military officers among EU member states. The UK will not benefit directly from the scheme and so will not participate or contribute to the costs, but is happy to let partners proceed on this basis.

Ministers will also discuss the report by EDA director, Alexander Weis, on the agency's activities and the adoption of the 2009 EDA budget.

ESDP Operations

Ministers will focus on the ongoing ESDP Mission in Chad/Central African Republic (EUFOR Chad/CAR) and the planned ESDP counter-piracy mission off the coast of Somalia. On EUFOR Chad, Ministers will discuss the progress of arrangements for handing over to the UN when the ESDP mandate expires in March 2009. On the proposed ESDP counter-piracy missions, Ministers will discuss the ongoing preparations for the planned December 2008 launch of Operation Atalanta in December 2008 and the need to secure the necessary legal powers and force generation.

Development Ministers

Afghanistan

Development Ministers will discuss Afghanistan over dinner. There will not be any formal Council conclusions. The Government believe that the EU, together with other major donors, should give full support to the Afghan Government's National Development Strategy; and push for delivering on the commitments made at the Paris conference on the importance of improving the effectiveness of aid to Afghanistan, including delivering assistance in a co-ordinated and coherent way through the Afghan Government wherever possible. The EU should also give strong backing to UN Secretary-General's Special Representative Kai Eide's eight-point plan to ensure better co-ordination of the international effort in Afghanistan and increase the impact of the UN. The Government welcome the response of EU member states to the world food programme's humanitarian appeals. The UK has committed £16.5 million to alleviate food shortages since January.

Food Security

Despite recent falls in food prices, the Government believe it remains important for the EU implement ambitious short and longer-term responses to assist those most affected by food insecurity. The Government welcome the EU's support for the global partnership on agriculture and food (GPAF) and the ongoing reform process of the UN food and agriculture organisation.

Doha—Financing for Development

We expect Ministers to agree conclusions on guidelines for EU participation in the international conference on financing for development in Doha on 29 November to 2 December. The Government believe it is critical to maintain support for the Monterrey consensus on financing for development and to reaffirm support for development assistance, especially in light of the current global financial crisis. It is important the EU agrees strong Council conclusions, including commitments to aid volumes and timetables for delivering aid, including to least developed countries, in order to support accelerated progress towards the millennium development goals as part of this Year of Action on MDGs.

Regional Integration/EPAs

Ministers will discuss Council conclusions on the European Commission's regional integration communication on the Africa Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The Government would like the Council to adopt language on economic partnership agreements (EPAs) that stresses: the importance of maintaining a flexible approach in the future negotiations when moving from interim to regional EPAs; and the need for development-friendly rules of origin in regional EPAs and interim EPAs, where appropriate, that foster regional integration and diversification of ACP economies.

HEALTH

Healthy Community Challenge Fund

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): "Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a cross-government strategy for England", published January 2008, included a commitment to invest £30 million between 2008-09 and 2010-11 in a Healthy Community Challenge Fund. The strategy explained that up to £5 million would be given to a small number of interested local areas—'healthy towns'—to build on existing work in their communities and test out their ideas on what further action needs to happen to make regular physical activity and healthy food choices easier for their population. This funding would be matched by contributions from the local area.

The areas that have been successful in their application for funding are Calderdale, Manchester, Thetford, Portsmouth, Tower Hamlets, Dudley, Middlesbrough, Tewkesbury and Sheffield.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Independent Monitoring Commission (20th Report)

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr. Shaun Woodward): I have received the 20th report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC). This report has been made under articles 4 and 7 of the international agreement that established the Commission and it reports on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. I have considered the content of the report and I am today bringing it before Parliament. I have placed copies in the Library of the House.

The report underlines the progress that has been made, particularly over the last three years, towards a more normal society in Northern Ireland. If further evidence of that were needed, the mutual respect and sensitivity demonstrated by the arrangements for the homecoming parades in Belfast and elsewhere shows the continued progress being made. The IMC also make the point that the devolution of policing and justice powers would be a further indication of progress.

The report sets out the clear and important benefits that devolution would bring. It would enable the closer integration of law enforcement with other domestic policy, essential in the fight against crime. It would also allow the Executive and Assembly to ensure that the criminal justice system was fully aligned to the needs of an increasingly normalised Northern Ireland and that a co-ordinated, strategic approach to policing and justice could evolve.

The report acknowledges that the absence of certainty on the devolution of policing and justice may have encouraged dissident republican groups to think that they could exploit a political vacuum. Certainly the report clearly shows that both the Real Irish Republican Army (RIRA) and the Continuity Irish Republican Army (CIRA) have been more active at the same time in recent months. The report's picture of an increased threat by dissident republicans, including a high level of threat to police officers, is obviously a matter of concern, and the PSNI and security services continue to work to counter it. They should be commended for this work when the threat is so firmly targeted at their own officers.

The report confirms the assessment made in previous reports that PIRA have maintained an exclusively political path and have completely relinquished the leadership and other structures appropriate to a time of armed conflict. In other words it is redundant.

The IMC is clear that while there is intent by some loyalists to proceed along a peaceful path, progress has been disappointingly slow with some members being involved in criminality for personal gain. The message to the Ulster Defence Association (UDA) is clear: it must recognise that the organisation's time as a paramilitary group has passed and that decommissioning is inevitable. The report points both the Ulster Volunteers Force (UVF) and the UDA to my statement in May that the legal protection for decommissioning will go sooner rather than later. The Government will look closely at the conclusions reached by the IMC.

Once again, I am grateful to the Commission for the submission of this report and for its careful analysis. The report offers a clear picture of both the extraordinary progress made and the challenges ahead to secure an end to paramilitarism in Northern Ireland and the devolution of policing and justice.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Recast Directive

The Parliamentary Secretary, Government Equalities Office (Maria Eagle): I wish to notify Parliament that Great Britain has fully implemented the recast directive 2006/54/EC, as required by the European Union. The recast directive came into force on 15 August 2006 with a primary aim of ensuring the implementation of the principle of equal treatment between men and women, in matters of employment and occupation in member states.

Our domestic law is fully compliant with the requirements of the recast directive, which repeals and replaces four existing EU directives and incorporates some established principles of case law from the European Court of Justice. In Great Britain we already protect people from discrimination on the grounds of sex, through the Equal Pay Act 1970 and the Sex Discrimination Act 1975 and the anti-discrimination provisions in the Social Security Act 1989 and the Pensions Act 1995.

We are, therefore, in a position to notify the European Commission that we have transposed the recast directive into our domestic law, in the way set out in the transposition table which will be placed in the Library.

The Equality Bill will bring together the provisions of the Sex Discrimination and the Equal Pay Acts and the relevant aspects of the Social Security and Pensions Acts along with the law governing discrimination on other grounds. We will ensure that the Equality Bill too is fully compliant with European legislation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 11 November 2008

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Small Business Finance Forum

The Minister for Employment Relations and Postal Affairs (Mr. Pat McFadden): My noble Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has today made the following statement:

> The Government are committed to doing everything they can to ensure that appropriate lending to businesses continues. The Chancellor has already announced the creation of UK Financial Investments Ltd which, in respect of those banks recapitalised by Government[1], will monitor compliance with the conditions we set to maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively priced lending to small businesses and homeowners.
>
> I am today hosting the first meeting of the Small Business Finance Forum. This forum, the establishment of which was announced to the House on 24 October, brings together all banks, small business representative organisations and small businesses themselves to have an informed dialogue to discuss and resolve their concerns on business lending.
>
> I am pleased to announce to the House that today we have agreed the establishment of a new monitoring panel on business lending. This panel, made up of senior Government officials from HM Treasury and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and representatives of the Bank of England will monitor and enter into a constructive dialogue with individual lenders on the availability, risk and overall cost of lending to small and medium-sized businesses from the five major banks[2].
>
> These banks have agreed to provide, in strictest confidence, data on the availability, risk and overall cost of lending to the monitoring panel.
>
> The establishment of this panel, and the agreement of the five major lenders to enter into a dialogue with Government on this basis, demonstrates our continuing commitment to ensure that appropriate levels of finance are available for SMEs in the UK.

[1] HBOS, LloydsTSB, RBS

[2] Barclays, HBOS, HSBC, LloydsTSB and RBS

DEFENCE

Operations in Afghanistan (New Call-out Order)

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Mr. Bob Ainsworth): With the expiry of the call-out order made in November 2007, a new order has been made under Section 54 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into service to support operations in Afghanistan. The new order is effective until 10 November 2009. Reservists continue to make a valuable contribution to operations in that country and some 670 reservists are currently called out in support of the operation.

HEALTH

Change4Life

The Secretary of State for Health (Alan Johnson): "Healthy weight: Healthy Living", published in January 2008, announced a social marketing campaign of £75 million over three years. It now has the committed support from a range of partners from industry to local grass-roots organisations. This is the first coalition of its kind to be brought together by Government to tackle the growing problem of obesity.

Change4Life is a lifestyle revolution which will help families eat well, move more and live longer. Under the banner Change4Life, the Government are aiming to galvanise support from everyone in the country from grass-roots organisations to leading supermarkets and charities.

Before Change4Life was created, the Department undertook detailed research to test out what messages would work with families. That research is published today and shows that:

> parents do not recognise that their children are overweight—just 11.5 per cent. of parents with overweight or obese children recognise it;
>
> parents underestimate how much unhealthy food and convenience food they buy as well as overestimating the amount of activity their children do;
>
> only 38 per cent. of adults know that obesity can lead to heart disease and only 6 per cent. know about the link of cancer with being overweight;
>
> many families use snacks as rewards, as fillers during times of boredom and to appease conflict;
>
> parents of older children are more worried about not feeding them enough and the risk of eating disorders such as anorexia; and
>
> lack of knowledge, confidence and skills is the main barrier which stops parents cooking from scratch.

These statistics are a convincing evidence base for the campaign. They demonstrate the need for a change in people's lifestyles and Change4Life aims to provide the information to enable families to make healthier informed choices.

The brand of Change4Life has now been unveiled and the first partner organisations have revealed their pledges which set out what they plan to do to help people make healthier choices in their lives. In addition to commercial partners, 12,400 local activists have signed up and many more have pledged their support. The pledges of commercial partners are as follows:

TESCO

Tesco stores serve 20 million customers per week and employ over 250,000 people. The organisation is committed to spreading the word on the benefits of a healthy lifestyle among its customers and workforce.

Tesco will also run themed Change4Life promotional activity (Change 4 Life for Less) in store on healthier products, and their customer magazine, which reaches 5 million customers, will include features on the campaign and tips to help customers get healthier.

Tesco will support the campaign with a range of other initiatives. Their store-based Community Champions, staff members dedicated to understanding and linking up with the communities around their stores, will support the project with activities tailored to their own communities, ranging from stalls in store to tell customers about the campaign, to visits to schools.

ASDA

Asda serves over 16 million customers a week and employs 165,000 people. Asda and its CEO Andy Bond have committed to supporting Change4Life.

Asda will be actively supporting Change4Life in communications to customers and colleagues, through its trading activity including promotions that encourage healthier eating and the Asda website. Asda will dedicate space to profiling Change4Life in each issue of the Asda magazine, which has a circulation of 3 million and estimated readership of 5.5 million.

Asda have also committed to supporting Bike4Life to promote cycling as a fun, safe activity that all the family can do. Asda CEO, Andy Bond, will cycle from Lands End to John O'Groats in August 2009 to raise £1 million for a new charity that will be set up to make cycling easier and more affordable for families living in deprived communities. This ride will be supported by a strong promotional campaign and events for customers and colleagues in all of Asda's stores.

Asda's Sporting Chance, which gives children access to free sports sessions in the school holidays, will be co-branded with Change4Life.

KELLOGG'S

Kellogg's is the UK's best selling grocery brand.

Kellogg's will support the campaign by entering into a new funding agreement and programme with ContinYou to expand the highly successful Breakfast Clubs programme under the Breakfast4Life umbrella. This project includes an investment of £100,000 a year for the next three years, and broadening the partnership to include complementary organisations. Kellogg's and ContinYou aim to develop Breakfast Clubs in the 500 most deprived areas in Britain, and promote universal access to breakfast clubs for every child by 2013.

Kellogg's will also support the Swim4Life programme in a number of ways. They will be providing an additional £240,000 a year to Swim Active for the next three years. This money will be invested in new Swim Active projects that encourage reluctant swimmers into the water. This new activity, and other activities developed with the ASA, will be co-branded Swim4Life.

Kellogg's will also co-brand the Fit For Life workplace campaign with Change4Life. This campaign provides Kellogg's 2,000 employees with nutritional and exercise programmes as part of a FDF/BiTC programme.

FITNESS INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

The Fitness Industry Association is committed to getting its 2,500 members to actively promote Change4Life.

The FIA will create a Change4Life promotion for summer 2009, which will involve members opening their doors to new exercisers, free of charge, to try a range of activities.

This is in addition to co-branding their dance and school programmes, and aligning their GO programme for young girls who are turned off sport to the Change4Life.

PEPSICO

PepsiCo as an organisation is committed to supporting Play4Life by producing a PSA print/outdoor advertisement to promote the benefits of active play and increase activity levels, using the wealth of sporting talent contracted to them.

PepsiCo has a portfolio of household brands that is well placed to support Change4Life. Through Tropicana for example, they will extend their partnership with their current breakfast club partner, Magic Breakfast under the Breakfast for Life umbrella.

NATIONAL CONVENIENCE STORES

In November Costcutter, Nisa Mills Group and a number of other retailers are taking part in a Change4Life programme in the North-East to improve the accessibility of fresh fruit and vegetable in low-income areas.

They are investing in new chillers in prominent locations at the front of stores, offering a wider range with strong Change4Life branding, providing tips and hints to customers and staff on how to eat more fruit and vegetables, as well as offering promotions on fruit and veg.

The programme will be rolled out to a total of 120 stores in the North-East by next June.

ITV

ITV is pledging to support the Change4Life movement on-screen and online.

In the new year ITV will be running a campaign to encourage its viewers to pledge to lose weight, eat more healthily and take more exercise.

Launched on ITV1, the campaign will include eight weeks of national and regional activity, tracking viewers' progress in meeting personal pledges to lead healthier lives.

Health and Social Care (Age Discrimination)

The Minister of State, Department of Health (Phil Hope): The Government's response to the consultation on reform of discrimination law, published on 21 July 2008, gave a commitment that the Government would make a statement after the parliamentary recess setting out a defined programme of work to tackle age discrimination in the health and social care sectors and to help service providers prepare for legislation.

This programme of work will address age equality issues in health and social care. It will inform the implementation of the Equality Bill, planned for next Session, which, subject to parliamentary approval, will ban harmful discrimination on grounds of age against people aged 18 and over, and will also consider non-legislative measures to tackle age discrimination.

The work will be underpinned by the following principles:

age discrimination and unfair treatment based on age have no place in a fair society, which values all its members;

personalisation means that individuals' needs for health and social care should be on the basis of their individual condition and circumstances, not general assumptions about their age;

services should be differentiated by age only where this is objectively justifiable; and

services for all people should be subject to achieving overall value for money in the use of public funds.

We plan to take the following action:

we shall seek views of stakeholders including professions and service commissioners and providers via the Departmental National Stakeholder Forum, the Social Partnership and the Third Sector Sounding Board, by running a learning event by the end of November 2008. This will raise awareness with a view to setting up an advisory group shortly afterwards;

we shall establish an advisory group to include key stakeholders with an interest in using, providing or commissioning services, training those who provide care, and monitoring action on age equality. The group will have a remit to produce advice to the Government to include:

identifying where age discrimination may occur in health and social care;

setting parameters for obtaining evidence of current policies, practice and service organisation which does or may result in age discrimination;

consideration of possible exceptions to a ban on unjustifiable age discrimination;

consideration of what action the Department and others may need to take to remove unjustifiable age discrimination in the provision, organisation and experience of health and social care; and

consideration of costs, risks and benefits of differentiation of services for different age groups, to inform a compulsory impact assessment.

Departmental officials will support the advisory group which will be extended and supported by:

a reference group of interested organisations and networks to get widest input and debate;

sub-groups for specific areas, for instance mental health and social care could start work on implementation plans in advance of other areas of healthcare for which evidence is not yet available; and

a technical analysts' sub-group that will give advice on evidence gathering and analysis.

We will publish a summary of the group's discussions and any advice it produces on the Department's website and will encourage wider participation in its discussions through stakeholder engagement.

We expect that the advisory group's work will take 18 months to complete. It will start in December 2008. An early task will be to establish provisional milestones for the phases of work, including on the key services and sectors. Emerging evidence from the work will be used as it becomes available to inform the ongoing development of policy and priorities on the provision and commissioning of health and social care, and this will contribute to discussion on action to address age equality in health and social care.

The advisory group will draw on existing departmental stakeholder networks, and new ones, such as National Voices, as they become available.

The Government will undertake consultation on possible exceptions to the ban on harmful age discrimination—in health and social care—taking account of the findings of the advisory group when it has completed its work.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Migration Reform (Points-based System)

The Minister for Borders and Immigration (Mr. Phil Woolas): Throughout this year, the Government have been delivering the biggest shake-up of the immigration system for a generation. We are delivering a stronger border that maximises the use of new technology, a selective Australian-style points system to control migration and a clear expectation that newcomers earn the right to stay.

Already this year, we have made sweeping changes to our border protection, including checking fingerprints before we issue a visa, screening all travellers against watch-lists and introducing a single border force with police-like powers. Last week we laid immigration rules making a number of changes, including to implement the skilled and temporary worker tiers of the points-based system (PBS), simplify the route for business visitors, and to increase the minimum age for obtaining a marriage visa from 18 to 21.

The Government are making an unprecedented investment in skills and training to ensure that UK residents do not lose out to overseas workers or see jobs go abroad because of a lack of skills. We have recently made a number of funding agreements with employers, worth £630 million over three years, to give them greater access to flexible, bespoke training aimed at tackling skills shortages in their sectors. These agreements cover sectors such as catering and hospitality, the nuclear industry and construction.

A fundamental part of the skilled worker tier of the points-based system is the shortage occupation lists, for the United Kingdom and Scotland. These are skilled occupations where the Government consider there are shortages so that it is sensible for vacancies to be filled by migrant workers from outside the European economic area. Migrant workers seeking to come to work in the UK score points if they are applying to work in one of these occupations.

In setting these lists, I have carefully considered the advice from the independent Migration Advisory Committee (MAC), which reported to Government on this matter in September. I am very grateful to the MAC for their independent advice. The lists are shown below.

Government-approved UK Shortage Occupation list for Tier 2 of the Points-based System – November 2008

Related Occupation Title and SOC Code (see notes 1 and 2)	*Job Titles Included on the Shortage Occupation List*	*Other Information: Skills Levels and Review Timescales (see note 3)*
Managers in construction (1122)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: project manager for property development and construction (see 'Other information').	The individual must lead on a project or combination of projects that would amount to a large financial responsibility (at least several million pounds). See Chapter 9 of the MAC report "Skills, Shortage, Sensible" for further details.

Government-approved UK Shortage Occupation list for Tier 2 of the Points-based System – November 2008

Related Occupation Title and SOC Code (see notes 1 and 2)	*Job Titles Included on the Shortage Occupation List*	*Other Information: Skills Levels and Review Timescales (see note 3)*
Civil engineers (2121)	ALL job titles within this occupation, including the following: public health engineer, rail engineer, drainage engineer, structural engineer, water engineer, geotechnical engineer, geotechnical design engineer, geotechnical specialist, tunnelling engineer, marine engineer, mining engineer, mining geotechnical engineer, petroleum engineer.	
Physicists, geologists and meteorologists (2113)	ONLY the following job titles within this occupation: geologist, geological engineer, hydrogeologist, geophysical specialist, geological advisor, geological analyst, geological associate, geophysicist, geoscientist, geosupport engineer, contaminated land engineer, geo-environmental engineer, reservoir panel engineer, rock mechanics engineer, soil mechanics engineer, geomechanics engineer, landfill engineer, contaminated land specialist, geoenvironmentalist.	
Chemical engineers (2125)	ALL job titles within this occupation, including the following: chemical engineer, petrophysicist.	
Medical practitioners (2211) and Dental practitioners (2215)	ONLY the following job titles within these occupations: consultants in the field of psychiatry; consultants with the following job titles only: anaesthetics and intensive care, chemical pathology, clinical neurophysiology, clinical oncology, dermatology, genito-urinary medicine, haematology, immunology, neurology, occupational medicine, oral and maxillo-facial surgery, orthodontics, paediatrics, paediatric dentistry, plastic surgery, renal medicine.	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Veterinarians (2216)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: veterinary surgeon (see 'Other information').	The individual must be registered as a member of the Royal College of Veterinary Surgeons to work in the UK.
Biological scientists and biochemists (2112), Psychologists (2212), Pharmacists/pharmacologists (2213), Medical radiographers (3214), Pharmaceutical dispensers (3217), Medical and dental technicians (3218), Occupational therapists (3222), Speech and language therapists (3223) and Therapists n.e.c. (3229)	ONLY the following job titles within these occupations: audiological scientist (within 2112); band 6 and above biomedical scientist (within 2112); state registered scientist in cytogenetics (within 2112); clinical psychologist (within 2212); pharmacist (within 2213); ultrasonographer (within 3214); HPC registered radiographer (within 3214); pharmacy technician (within 3217); audiologist (within 3218); occupational therapist engaged at band 7 or 8 of the Agenda for Change scale or their independent sector equivalents (within 3222); speech and language therapist employed or engaged at band 7 or 8 or their independent sector equivalents (within 3223); orthopist (within 3229); and band 7 dietician (within 3229).	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Secondary education teaching professionals (2314)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: secondary education teacher within the subjects of maths and science.	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Quantity surveyors (2433)	ALL job titles within this occupation	
Nurses (3211)	ONLY the following job titles within this occupation: registered nurse employed or engaged at band 7 or 8 of the Agenda for Change scale or their independent sector equivalents; registered nurse at band 5 or above employed or engaged in the following specialties: operating theatre nurse, anaesthetic nurse, operating department practitioner, scrub nurse, theatre nurse, critical care (nurses working in critical units with a level 2 or 3 classification).	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Engineering technicians (3113)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: aircraft component manufacturing engineer.	
Dancers and choreographers (3414)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: skilled ballet dancer (see 'Other information').	For this job to be skilled, dancers must reach the standard required by internationally recognised UK ballet companies (for example, Birmingham Royal Ballet, English National Ballet, Northern Ballet Theatre, the Royal Ballet and Scottish Ballet).

Government-approved UK Shortage Occupation list for Tier 2 of the Points-based System – November 2008

Related Occupation Title and SOC Code (see notes 1 and 2)	*Job Titles Included on the Shortage Occupation List*	*Other Information: Skills Levels and Review Timescales (see note 3)*
Ship and hovercraft officers (3513)	ALL job titles within this occupation (see 'Other information').	The individual must hold a Certificate of Equivalent Competency from the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, indicating qualification to a level equivalent to Officer of the Watch certification or above.
Pipe fitters (5216)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: high integrity pipe welder (see 'Other information').	The individual must have three or more years' documented evidence of related on-the-job experience.
Lines repairers and cable jointers (5243)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: electricity transmission overhead linesworker.	
Chefs, cooks (5434)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: skilled chef (see 'Other information').	'Skilled' requires that the individual is earning at least £8.10 per hour after deductions for accommodation, meals, etc. MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Care assistants and home carers (6115)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: skilled senior care worker (see 'Other information').	'Skilled' requires that the individual is earning at least £8.80 per hour after deductions for accommodation, meals, etc. OR there is a requirement for senior care workers to be qualified at National Qualifications Framework level 3 or above (currently only the case in Scotland and Wales) MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Animal care occupations n.e.c. (6139)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: skilled work rider (see 'Other information').	There must be documentary evidence that the individual has three or more years' paid experience in this job, at a level equivalent to NVQ level 3, for this job to be skilled. See Chapter 9 of MAC report for further details of job responsibilities. The individual must also be licensed by the British Horseracing Authority.
Fishing and agriculture related occupations n.e.c. (9119)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: skilled sheep shearer (see 'Other information').	The individual must hold the British Wool Marketing Board bronze medal (or equivalent) or above and there must be documentary evidence that the individual has worked at this level for three years for the job to be skilled.
Social Workers (2442)	ALL job titles within this occupation.	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.

Notes:

(1) n.e.c. indicates an occupation that includes job titles not elsewhere classified in the SOC2000.

(2) For official job descriptions relating to four-digit occupations in the SOC2000, see: www.statistics.gov.uk/methods_quality/ns_sec/downloads/SOC2000_Vol1_V5.pdf

(3) Timings are indicative. The MAC may review any occupation at any time.

Government-approved Scotland Shortage Occupation list for Tier 2 of the Points-based System – November 2008

Related occupation title and SOC code (see notes 1 and 2)	*Job titles included on the shortage occupation list*	*Other information: skills levels and review timescales (see note 3)*
N/A	ALL job titles and occupations on the UK shortage list.	See UK list for more details
Food, drink and tobacco process operatives (8111)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: manual filleters of frozen fish; machine trained operatives and quality controllers in the fish processing industry IN SCOTLAND.	Individual must have three or more years, paid experience in this job for this job to be skilled.

Government-approved Scotland Shortage Occupation list for Tier 2 of the Points-based System – November 2008

Related occupation title and SOC code (see notes 1 and 2)	*Job titles included on the shortage occupation list*	*Other information: skills levels and review timescales (see note 3)*
Nurse (3211)	ONLY the following job title within this occupation: nurses in care of the elderly units at bands 5 and above IN SCOTLAND.	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.
Speech and language therapists (3223)	ALL jobs within this occupation IN SCOTLAND	MAC to review evidence by March 2009.

Note:

These timings are indicative. The MAC may review any occupation at any time.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 12 November 2008

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The ECOFIN Council met on Tuesday 4 November 2008. The following items were discussed:

Follow-up to the European Council on 15-16 October: preparation of international initiatives in response to the financial crisis

ECOFIN Ministers held a discussion on the outcomes of the October European Council in preparation for the informal meeting of heads of state and Government in European Council formation on 7 November. The discussion at ECOFIN focused on the next steps for reform. On the basis of the discussion, the French presidency released on its own initiative a paper relating to international financial architecture.

Taxation: Reduced rates of VAT

Ministers held a discussion of a presidency compromise text based on a Commission proposal to allow reduced rates for a specified set of goods and services. The UK believes that member states should be allowed the flexibility to apply reduced rates of VAT where they do not materially affect the functioning of the single market. The issue will come back to the December ECOFIN following further work at technical level.

Combating VAT fraud

Ministers discussed the presidency's compromise proposal on measures to speed up the collection and exchange of data on intra-Community supplies between member states. The proposal will also be subject to further work at technical level.

General arrangements for excise duty

Ministers agreed in principle to a general approach to the directive on holding and movement of excise goods (92/12), subject to Slovenia lifting its scrutiny reserve. The proposal aims to simplify and liberalise the rules on intra-Community movements of goods (mainly alcohol) on which excise duty has already been paid in a member state.

Anti-fraud agreement with Liechtenstein

Ministers discussed the Commission's draft EU-Liechtenstein anti-fraud agreement. The Commission updated Ministers on the progress of the negotiation, which it has been conducting under a mandate from the Council.

Ministers agreed that the Commission should continue its discussions with the Liechtenstein Government.

Climate change and stabilisation of allowance prices under the emissions trading scheme

Poland gave a presentation to ECOFIN on the issue of potential price volatility in the emissions trading scheme. The presidency agreed to further discussion of the issue at the December ECOFIN.

Lisbon Strategy

The presidency updated ECOFIN Ministers about the multilateral surveillance work undertaken by the Economic Policy Committee on policies related to flexicurity that have been implemented in various member states.

Pre-Budget Report

The Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr. Alistair Darling): I propose to present the pre-Budget report to the House of Commons on 24 November.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Primary Capital Programme

The Minister for Schools and Learners (Jim Knight): Last autumn the Government announced details of the biggest sustained programme of capital investment in schools for over 50 years. Annual capital investment in schools was just under £700 million in 1996-97. By 2011 it is set to rise to £8.2 billion; representing a sevenfold real-terms increase. This unprecedented investment has helped address a significant backlog of work going back over many decades as well as supporting hundreds of new-build schools, including 740 primary schools.

In recent years the emphasis has shifted towards a strategic approach which requires local authorities to consider their whole schools estate and take a long-term view about how capital investment can support wider transformation of teaching and learning; starting with those most in need. Building Schools for the Future was launched in 2004 with the long-term aim of rebuilding or refurbishing all secondary schools. The first completed new built schools came on stream in 2007-08.

Plans for an equally transformational approach to capital investment in primary schools were first announced in 2005. Following an overwhelmingly positive response to consultation in March 2006, the programme got under way with 23 pathfinder authorities in 2007. It will be rolled out nationally to all local authorities from 1 April 2009.

The Primary Capital Programme challenges local authorities to think long-term and strategically about teaching and learning in primary schools in the 21st century and how capital investment can support wider transformation. It commits to renewing at least half of all primary school buildings by 2022-23, creating primary schools that are equipped for 21st century learning, at the heart of their communities, with children's services in reach of every family.

This marks the start of a £7 billion programme of investment in primary schools. It will be kick-started by £1.75 billion of new capital investment from April 2009. This represents a major injection of new capital investment that will not only benefit children and families but will also provide a welcome boost for the construction industry and local businesses who will be crucial to delivering the new and refurbished primary schools.

Local authorities were advised by the Department last autumn of their indicative share of this funding. To access funding, they were required to prepare and agree with the Department "A Primary Strategy for Change". The Department issued comprehensive guidance on the content of these strategic plans in December 2007.

All strategies have now been rigorously assessed against the detailed requirements set out in the guidance. The overall picture is encouragingly positive, giving confidence that the transformational objectives of the programme will be delivered. Collectively, local authorities are planning to start projects at more than 1,500 schools over the next three years. Following assessment local authorities were placed in one of three categories;

Category 1—Approved. Assessed as fully meeting the requirements set out in the guidance. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has been confirmed enabling the LA to plan and procure initial projects. There were 41 local authorities in this category:

Barnet, Bracknell Forest, Bradford, Bromley, Camden, Cornwall, Coventry, Darlington, Devon, Doncaster, Dorset, Ealing, Essex, Gateshead, Gloucestershire, Greenwich, Hackney, Hampshire, Harrow, Hartlepool, Hertfordshire, Kensington and Chelsea, Kingston upon Thames, Kirklees, Lambeth, Leicester, Lewisham, Lincolnshire, Luton, Middlesbrough, Newham, Portsmouth, Redbridge, Redcar and Cleveland, Richmond upon Thames, Rutland, Tameside, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton, Worcestershire.

Category 2—Approved with some modification. Strategies in this category were judged to be generally sound, but with some areas upon which we would welcome further information/reassurance. For local authorities in this category we have confirmed funding for 2009-10, but future funding will be dependent upon confirmation that issues identified have been resolved. There were 92 authorities in this category:

Barking and Dagenham, Barnsley, Bath and North East Somerset, Bedfordshire, Bexley, Birmingham, Blackburn with Darwen, Blackpool, Bolton, Bournemouth, Brent, Brighton and Hove, Buckinghamshire, Bury, Calderdale, Cambridgeshire, Cheshire, Croydon, Cumbria, Derby, Derbyshire, Dudley, Durham, East Riding of Yorkshire, East Sussex, Enfield, Haringey, Havering, Hillingdon, Hounslow, Isle of Wight, Islington, Kent, Kingston upon Hull, Knowsley, Lancashire, Leeds, Manchester, Merton, Milton Keynes, Newcastle upon Tyne, Norfolk, North East Lincolnshire, North Somerset, North Tyneside, North Yorkshire, Nottinghamshire, Oldham, Oxfordshire, Peterborough, Plymouth, Poole, Reading, Rochdale, Rotherham, Salford, Sandwell, Sefton, Slough, Solihull, Somerset, South Gloucestershire ,South Tyneside, Southampton, Southwark, St. Helens, Staffordshire, Stockport, Stockton-on-Tees, Stoke-on-Trent, Suffolk, Sunderland, Surrey, Sutton, Swindon, Telford and Wrekin, Torbay, Tower Hamlets, Trafford, Wakefield, Waltham Forest, Wandsworth, Warrington, West Berkshire, West Sussex, Westminster, Wigan, Wiltshire, Windsor and Maidenhead, Wirral, Wokingham, York.

Category 3—Further work needed before funding can be released. Strategies in this category had specific issues that must be addressed before funding can be confirmed. There were 15 local authorities in this category:

Bristol, Halton, Hammersmith and Fulham, Herefordshire, Leicestershire, Liverpool, Medway, North Lincolnshire, Northamptonshire, Northumberland, Nottingham, Sheffield, Shropshire, Southend-on-Sea, Thurrock

Authorities in category 3 have been advised that their plans did not match sufficiently well the detailed guidance provided and the Department is unable to confirm funding at this stage. The Department is providing tailored professional advice and support to help them improve their strategies.

Further details about the programme, together with key programme documentation, are available on the Teachernet website.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Safeguarding Children

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): The death of Baby P in Haringey is a very tragic case that will have shocked and appalled the country. It makes all of us question how someone could do such a terrible thing to a child and set out to deceive the very people trying to help.

Safeguarding children is Government's top priority and we expect it to be the top priority for local agencies too. In response to Lord Laming's report following the death of Victoria Climbié we introduced fundamental reforms to help keep children safe. Local areas are also now required to review every case where a child is harmed or killed, and neglect or abuse is suspected. We will be considering carefully the serious case review in this case and whether there needs to be a further investigation of child protection procedures and practices amongst local agencies in Haringey.

The reforms put in place by Government in response to Lord Laming's recommendations set a very clear direction and have significantly strengthened the framework for safeguarding children. In order to ensure that these reforms are being implemented systematically, I have asked Lord Laming to prepare an independent report of progress being made, identifying any barriers to effective, consistent implementation, and recommending whether additional action is needed to overcome them. Lord Laming expects to submit his findings early next year.

Safeguarding children is the responsibility of us all. It is vital that we strive for the best possible practice so that vulnerable children receive the protection they need. Government are determined to strengthen the system for safeguarding and we look forward to Lord Laming's report and his recommendations.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

25th Offshore (Oil & Gas) Licensing Round

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Mr. Mike O'Brien): After thorough consideration of 193 applications made in the 25th offshore oil and gas licensing round, I have decided to offer 171 production licences. This makes the 25th offshore oil and gas licensing round one of the most successful since offshore licensing began in 1964. This demonstrates the continuing attractiveness both of the UK continental shelf as an oil and gas producing province and of DECC's licensing system.

In addition to the strategic environmental assessment (SEA), which I described in my statement to the House when I invited applications for the 25th licensing round, my officials have carried out a screening assessment on the blocks for which applications were received.

The screening exercise found that significant effects on protected nature conservation areas could not be excluded in relation to 46 blocks. Detailed environmental assessments will be required before a decision can be reached in relation to licensing of these blocks. These assessments will examine the implications for the protected nature conservation areas of awarding oil and gas licences. Accordingly, I will not be offering licences for these blocks at this time.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

EU Ministers (Informal Meeting)

The Minister for Europe (Caroline Flint): My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary represented the UK at the informal meeting of EU Foreign Ministers—'Gymnich'—in Marseille, France on 3 November 2008.

The agenda was as follows:

Transatlantic Relations

The main purpose of the meeting was to agree priorities for EU-US dialogue, following EU Foreign Ministers' discussion at their informal meeting on 5 and 6 September. Ministers worked towards agreement of a common platform for member states when engaging with the US, based on a French presidency paper that could be shared with the incoming US Administration.

As a first priority, EU Foreign Ministers discussed reform of international institutions, considering the need for the United States and Europe to work together to enhance the effectiveness of multilateral institutions in managing crises and global imbalances, fully involving the major emerging countries.

They identified the situation in the Middle East as a priority for EU-US dialogue, in order to encourage progress on the middle east peace process (MEPP), Iraq, relations with Syria and Lebanon, and Iran, which remained a major source of concern. High Representative Solana underlined the importance of a comprehensive regional approach to the MEPP. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary stressed the need for tougher sanctions on Iran.

Ministers also considered the situation in Afghanistan, where the United States and European countries are working alongside the Afghans for peace and the reconstruction of their country. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary argued that the EU needed to set out more clearly what it could offer Afghanistan alongside current and future US efforts, rather than simply asking the US to take more action. He suggested that it should look at doing more on both Afghanistan and Pakistan, including meeting our commitments to the EU police mission (EUPOL); holding an EU-Pakistan summit and improving bilateral trade; and enhancing EU/NATO relations more generally.

The final theme of the 'common platform' was relations with Russia. Ministers agreed that a concerted approach was needed, based on dialogue and compliance with international rules.

AOB: Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC)

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and the French presidency briefed Ministers on their joint visit to the DRC on 1 November. Commissioner Ferrero-Waldner gave an update on humanitarian aid. Ministers decided to wait for the UN Secretary-General's special representative to the DRC to report to the UN Security Council before deciding whether to send an EU military mission with a humanitarian mandate in support of UN peacekeepers.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 13 November 2008

TREASURY

Anti-avoidance Measures (Leasing)

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Stephen Timms): The Government are taking action today to counter tax avoidance schemes involving the leasing of plant or machinery.

Action is being taken against schemes that have been disclosed to HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) under the avoidance disclosure regulations and which:

involve the lease or sale and leaseback of plant or machinery to obtain relief for more than the original cost of the asset;

seek to avoid tax on the granting of a long funding lease; or

involve the sale of a company that is an intermediate lessor of plant or machinery.

In addition, the Government are taking action to remedy a technical defect in the Capital Allowances Act which could lead to a loss of tax when a long funding lease ends.

The Government have also become aware that partnerships that have in the past invested in films are attempting to avoid tax by means of converting existing leases into long funding leases of plant or machinery.

This continued abuse of the tax rules on leased plant and machinery and by film partnerships is unfair on the majority of taxpayers who comply fully with their tax obligations, and can undermine the funding of public services. The Government are determined to act to ensure that tax avoidance is effectively countered and will therefore introduce appropriate legislation in the 2009 Finance Bill which will be effective from today.

Technical notes explaining the material that will be contained in Finance Bill 2009 will be published on HMRC's website today.

Copies of today's HMRC technical notes have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are accessible on the HMRC web site at http://www.hmrc.gov.uk.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Secondary School Improvement

The Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (Ed Balls): I would like to update the House on progress on our school improvement strategy for secondary schools, and the next steps in ensuring that every child has the chance to achieve their potential and enjoy their time in education.

In June we launched the National Challenge, backed with new resources of £400 million to transform schools where less than 30 per cent. of young people gain five or more higher level GCSEs, including English and mathematics. I would like to pay tribute to the way local authorities and schools have drawn up plans to support sustainable improvements in individual schools. I am pleased to announce that I have today agreed proposals for National Challenge improvement plans in 48 local authorities. Two local authorities, Bristol and Lincolnshire, are already in a position to outline their plans today.

I welcome the way that many local authorities, in consultation with school heads and governors, are now bringing forward imaginative and ambitious proposals including transformational plans for new academies and national challenge trusts. These plans also include support for improvements in teaching; for more high level teaching assistants; for individual help to meet children's learning needs; and to support stronger middle and senior leadership. They are all designed to meet particular schools' needs according to their particular context. We are continuing discussions with other authorities about the funding packages necessary to support their National Challenge schools, and I will update the House in due course.

While it is right that we give extra support to those schools with the lowest results and facing the most challenging circumstances, there are also other schools where despite higher GCSE results, their pupils do not fulfil their earlier promise, and could achieve much more. Such "coasting" schools have not yet done enough to realise their pupils' potential.

Every child has the right to a good education that stretches them and helps them realise their full potential. That is why today I am publishing a strategy to help these schools raise their game and to kick-start improvement in schools that are coasting. This strategy will be supported by funding of up to £40 million to bring about improvements in these schools.

We will be asking local authorities to identify and work with the schools they consider to be "coasting". These are schools that have shown too little improvement in attainment and progression over a period of years. They are schools that may be achieving good enough GCSE results to earn a reasonable reputation, but whose performance conceals poor progress, sometimes among its more able pupils and sometimes among those who face additional barriers to learning such as SEN. Schools like this need and respond well to challenge, but have not always had it. They are not performing badly enough to receive an inadequate judgment from Ofsted, or to risk significant numbers of parents choosing to send their children to another school. Nonetheless they should be achieving better outcomes for all of their pupils and providing a more exciting and challenging learning experience.

We know what the very best schools do to make significant improvements. They do not rest on their laurels; they are characterised by a "we can do better than this" attitude. They set ambitious targets for their pupils and monitor their progress, and if pupils fall off trajectory they intervene to put them back on course. This focus on progression is backed up by a personalised approach to teaching and learning and focused feedback to each pupil so that each child knows what they are aiming for and what they have to do to get there.

Every partner will have their role to play in this strategy and we want to focus the attention of parents, governors, heads and local authorities on what they should be expecting their school to achieve. We want to raise expectations of parents and empower them to challenge schools to deliver the very best for their child. We will work with local authorities to identify the schools which could benefit from this programme and engage with parents, head teachers and governing bodies to take the action needed to challenge these schools to improve. If schools do not improve we will step up the level of challenge and expect local authorities to use their existing intervention powers.

We will be offering these schools support from other schools and leaders who have the experience of raising performance in their own schools to help them unlock their potential. Schools in the programme will also have access to additional funding to form trusts and federations should they want to formalise the benefits of collaborative working. Extra funding for schools to draw down additional resource will also be made available as will training to improve their Assessment for Learning, tracking pupils' progress in order to inform future planning and teaching. We will also support schools to provide high quality after-school study to re-engage those pupils, particularly those with SEN, who have become bored and demotivated. All this will be brokered by School Improvement Partners, further empowered through additional training and an extra four days per year to drive improvement in these schools.

This strategy is a key part of the Children's Plan's 10-year vision to make this country the best place in the world for children and young people to grow up. It is part of our drive to deliver the ambition that we outlined in the Children's Plan and continued with the National Challenge: the ambition to raise attainment and aspirations, narrow the gap and ensure educational excellence for everyone.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Hilary Benn): The Under-Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Ogmore (Huw Irranca-Davies) and I represented the United Kingdom at October's Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg. Richard Lochhead also attended.

All of the 'A' points were adopted.

The Council agreed the annual total allowable catch (TAC) for fish stocks in the Baltic sea for 2009 as follows:

39 per cent. reduction for western herring

15 per cent. reduction for western Baltic cod

15 per cent. reduction for eastern Baltic cod

In addition, they also endorsed the Commission's proposal to reduce effort in the eastern Baltic by 10 per cent.

The 2009 and 2010 TAC for deep-sea species—long life cycle and depleted—were also agreed. This represents a balance to protect vulnerable stocks and minimise discards. In particular, the deep-sea sharks TAC will reduce to zero by 2010, while providing for a 10 per cent. reduction for by-catch to avoid discards. Other aspects were:

15 per cent. reduction for roundnose grenadier

50 per cent. reduction for orange roughy in 2009; zero TAC for 2010

10 per cent. reduction for black scabbardfish in 2009; 7 per cent. for 2010

The UK secured commitments from the Commission about appropriate complementary effort limitation measures for deep-sea stocks being included in the main TAC regulation for decision at December Council.

The Council also reached agreement on the Commission's proposal for the Black sea before having an exchange of views on the annual negotiations to conclude the EU-Norway fisheries agreement, scheduled for November. This is a significant UK interest, with roughly half of UK fisheries governed by the agreement. The UK emphasised in particular the need for appropriate balance on access to arctic cod, and the need for cod TACs to be increased while reducing mortality rates. No decisions should be reached that prejudged decisions on the EU cod recovery plan, and that agreements on haddock, whiting and mackerel were also important.

Finally on fisheries, the Council agreed a mandate for the Commission to negotiate on behalf of the EU in the forthcoming ICCAT (International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna) annual meeting. The mandate focuses on over-capacity, reducing the length of the fishing seasons, and identifying specific measures that can reinforce control throughout the market chain. The UK and other member states spoke to support the Commission.

On agriculture items, the Chair of the high-level group set out for Ministers the presidency's conclusions following discussions during October on the draft health check regulations:

On new challenges, the scope of the challenges was broadly sufficient but that some member states raised the prospect of extending the list to include innovation and the dairy sector.

On modulation, most member states had not questioned the principle of progressive modulation but that lower rates were warranted. The Commission was open. The eventual increase in the headline rate of modulation was connected to the outcome on progressive modulation.

On national envelopes—Article 68—some member states wanted a longer transition period for existing Article 69 measures. A majority could accept a 10 per cent. ceiling for the envelope. New member states should calculate the ceilings by reference to 100 per cent. of their direct aids. The technical aspects of recycling unspent direct aids allocated to member states—so-called annex 8 monies—would be explored. Member states would have until August 2010 or 2011 to notify the Commission of their intention to use Article 68, and a review clause had been agreed. On environmental aid, conformity with rural development rules on axis 2 had been dropped.

On decoupling, agreement has been reached to postpone decoupling to 2013. Decoupling could happen in a single step.

On milk quotas, some member states wanted quotas to increase more, some wanted less, whereas others were content with the proposed five times 1 per cent. increases.

On market management, the majority wanted more flexibility with regard to proposals on dairy reform.

On intervention, many wanted intervention retained in its current form which the Commission ruled out. There were calls for the retention of intervention in the rice and durum wheat sectors, which the Commission will consider.

The Commission also dismissed calls for the abolition of the sugar production levy. Further discussion on the health check was conducted with the presidency and Commission in trilateral sessions.

The Agriculture Commissioner introduced a proposed regulation requiring those placing timber on the market to ensure that the timber has been legally logged. The UK welcomed the regulation but said that effective enforcement was very important. In particular, the UK and the Netherlands urged quick progress to be made in negotiating the proposal before the European Parliament was dissolved.

The presidency held a discussion on the Community co-financed school fruit scheme, and outlined the areas on which it thought a compromise had been reached:

private sector support co-financing;

use of processed products;

additionality; and

the possibility of limiting eligible produce to that of EU origin.

A number of member states are broadly supportive of the compromise but have asked for the budget for the scheme to be increased; the UK and Sweden urged restraint on financing.

The Commission informed member states that €56 million had been made available for the purchase of Bluetongue vaccine. Member states were urged to make good use of the additional funds and to recognise that vaccination alone was not sufficient to fight Bluetongue. The Netherlands provided an update of its discovery of a new strain of Bluetongue; a voluntary movement ban had been put in place and chief veterinary officers had been notified.

Poland and Hungary tabled a note about the problems being faced by their producers due to low prices for processed apples. The Agriculture Commissioner stated there was no basis for the Community to take trade measures. The Commissioner urged the sector to restructure and to work collectively in the face of the bargaining power of retailers.

Slovenia briefly presented its report on a conference of member state paying agencies.

With regard to the Green Paper on quality in agricultural products, the Commission remarked that the paper was intended to open a debate on how the EU agriculture sector could make the most of the quality of its produce. The presidency said this issue would be debated at the December Council.

Poland sought the Commission's views on raising the intervention price for cereals and developing new instruments to deal with future market crises. The Commission stated the CAP health check was the appropriate place to discuss reform of the intervention regime. The presidency noted the seriousness of the problem and asked the Commissioner to explore ways to deal with the issue.

JUSTICE

Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 - Relevant Third Party

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice): Today the Government is publishing the response to the consultation Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007— Relevant Third Party. A relevant third party (RTP) is someone who can make an application on behalf of a victim of forced marriage without first requiring the permission of the court. Other applicants on behalf of a forced marriage victim must obtain the permission of the court.

Responses to the consultation generally supported the use of local authorities in England and Wales to act as the RTP for victims of forced marriage under the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. The Government agree with this view. When designated, local authorities will be able to make applications without the court's permission for forced marriage protection orders on behalf of someone who is or who has been forced into marriage.

While we believe that local authorities are best placed to serve as RTPs we recognise the role that the voluntary sector plays is an important one and should be explored further. The success of the independent domestic violence advisors (IDVAs) has shown how the voluntary sector can play a strong support role in helping those who are the subject of domestic violence in the criminal courts. While IDVAs are currently limited to the criminal court, they have expertise in dealing with issues like forced marriage, are experienced multi-agency workers and work under an accredited scheme. Therefore we will also carry out a pilot using a local IDVA scheme as an RTP. If this proves successful, we would look at extending the RTP provisions more widely across IDVAs as well as other voluntary sector organisations.

The Lord Chancellor may make an order specifying a person or description of persons who may act as a RTP under section 63C of the Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007. An order will not be made until local authorities are sufficiently prepared to act as RTPs, having ensured that they will operate within an appropriate framework and in accordance with guidelines that help to safeguard the best interests of the victim.

During the time it will take for this to occur it will be possible for anyone, including local authorities, to apply on behalf of a victim if they obtain the court's permission. This will ensure that victims of forced marriage can obtain the protection of the court where they cannot apply for a forced marriage protection order themselves. The court's scrutiny of an application for permission to apply for an order will ensure that the victim's best interests are safeguarded.

I have placed copies of the Government response to the consultation Forced Marriage (Civil Protection) Act 2007 - Relevant Third Party in the Libraries of both Houses.

TRANSPORT

Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations (Amendment) Order 2009

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick): My noble Friend the Minister of State for the Department for Transport, Lord Adonis, has made the following Ministerial Statement.

I have today published an addendum to the Department for Transport's consultation on proposed amendments to the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations Order 2007 (SI 3072) to slow down the rate of increase of the

Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation (RTFO) and to add two new fuels to the renewable fuels eligible for certificates under the scheme, launched on 15 October. This addendum proposes additional amendments to rectify a discrepancy recently identified in the 2007 Order and to delete provisions from the Order as a consequence of changes to the Hydrocarbon Oil Duties Act 1979 made by the Finance Act 2008.

The discrepancy concerns the definition of "relevant hydrocarbon oil" in the Order. This definition identifies the category of fossil fuel which must be taken into account when determining whether a supplier is subject to the RTFO and if so, how many certificates showing supply of renewable fuel the supplier must produce. The intention was that the definition of "relevant hydrocarbon oil" should include fossil fuel that is blended with biodiesel or bioethanol as well as fossil fuel that is supplied unblended and this is how the Order has been interpreted by the Renewable Fuels Agency and suppliers. However, the current drafting of the definition does not include fossil fuel that is blended with biodiesel or bioethanol before it passes the point at which the requirement to pay duty takes effect. This means that only fossil fuel that is supplied separately from biodiesel or bioethanol or is blended after it passes the duty point can be counted.

The addendum I have published today proposes additional changes to the 2007 Order to rectify this discrepancy so that the fossil fuel component of bioblend and bioethanol blend supplied from the beginning of the next RTFO obligation period, April 2009, will count towards the obligation. Due to the constraints of the primary legal powers we will not be able to amend the Order retrospectively to change the definition for this obligation year and the department is advising fuel suppliers of this fact.

The consultation period for the addendum is shorter than normal and ends on 17 December, the date that the consultation launched on 15 October ends. Any amendments to the RTFO Order are subject to the affirmative resolution procedure and the shorter consultation period is necessary to ensure that the amendments can be included in a single draft Order which can be laid and debated in Parliament before it is made to come into force in April 2009. The nature of the amendments is such that a shorter consultation period is appropriate. The amendments to deal with the discrepancy give effect to what was previously thought to be the meaning of the Order and the other amendments are purely consequential and do not change the meaning of the Order.

The content of this addendum does not affect any of the other issues which are the subject of the consultation launched on 15 October—proposals on slowing down the rate of increase of the RTFO and on the addition of two, new, eligible renewable fuels under the scheme. The Government remains committed to ensuring that UK biofuels policy promotes development of a sustainable biofuels industry, by proceeding with caution until the wider environmental and social impacts of biofuels are better understood.

Copies of the letter to stakeholders and attached addendum have been placed in the Libraries of the House and are available in the Vote Office and Printed Paper Office.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Buncefield

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (Jonathan Shaw): My noble Friend the Lord McKenzie of Luton has made the following statement:

> In the early hours of Sunday 11 December 2005, a number of explosions occurred at Buncefield oil storage depot, Hemel Hempstead, Hertfordshire. At least one of the initial explosions was of massive proportions and there was a large fire, which engulfed a significant proportion of the site. More than 40 people were injured, although fortunately there were no fatalities. Damage occurred to both commercial and residential properties in the vicinity and a large area around the site was evacuated on emergency service advice. The fire burned for several days, destroying most of the site and emitting large clouds of black smoke into the atmosphere. The damage to the site and the escape of the stored fuel, plus large quantities of fire-fighting materials, resulted in contamination of the groundwater in the vicinity of the site by fuel, fuel-related contaminants and surfactants needed to control the fire.
>
> Following the explosion, a Major Incident Investigation Board (MIIB), independently chaired by Lord Newton of Braintree, was established and has overseen an extensive investigation into the causes of the accident and ways to avoid or mitigate against similar incidents in the future. The MIIB has now published eight reports, four of which were progress reports, with the other four setting out findings and making recommendations concerning "The Design and Operation of Fuel Storage Sites", "Emergency Preparedness for, Response to and Recovery from Incidents", "The Explosion Mechanism Advisory Group Report" and "Land Use Planning and the Control of Societal Risk around Major Hazard Sites". The recommendations are aimed mainly at site operators and the COMAH Competent Authority but there are also recommendations for various Government Departments to consider arising out of the findings and recommendations on emergency preparedness and land use planning.
>
> I am pleased to announce to the House that I have today placed in its Libraries a report detailing the Government's and the Competent Authority's response to the MIIB reports "Design and Operation of Fuel Storage Sites", and "Emergency Preparedness for, Response to and Recovery from Incidents".
>
> I would like to take this opportunity to thank Lord Newton and his board for their very thorough reports, which will lead to improved safety, environmental protection and resilience at and around major hazard sites.
>
> Overall, I can report that good progress has been made against the recommendations. With regard to the MIIB report on "Design and Operation of Fuel Storage Sites", both the Competent Authority—comprising the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environment Agency and Scottish Environment Protection Agency—and industry have acted promptly on the implementation of the recommendations, and this work has delivered real improvements in the prevention of major incidents.
>
> On the second MIIB report covering "Emergency Preparedness for, Response to and Recovery from Incidents", Government organisations, notably the Department for Communities and Local Government (CLG) and the Cabinet Office, have responded to the challenge with a programme of action. As announced in the national security strategy, published in March 2008, the Cabinet Office has embarked in 2008 on a review of Part 1 of the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004. Delivered through the CCA enhancement programme, the review will ensure that the CCA continues to provide a modern, consistent and effective platform for civil protection in the UK. The review will directly address relevant recommendations highlighted in the second MIIB report.
>
> The devolved administrations have also been fully engaged. This is coupled with positive work at a local level to enhance the resilience and effectiveness of emergency response, supported

by new guidance from Government. I am pleased to see these improvements, and we are already better prepared for any future emergencies at major hazard sites.

I would also like to take this opportunity to update the House on recovery and regeneration in the Buncefield area, which I am pleased to say is progressing well, with substantial financial assistance from central Government and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA). In conjunction with the local authority and key local stakeholders, EEDA is also developing innovative proposals to combine a series of significant funding programmes to help finance major infrastructure improvements identified in the local masterplan as key to driving growth in the area. In terms of recovery, 22 million litres of contaminated firewater stored at Maple Lodge and Blackbirds sewage treatment works has been treated and disposed of safely. The remaining firewater was safely disposed of by high-temperature incineration earlier this year. A parcel of land adjacent to the Buncefield site is in the process of being sold and developers were invited to submit proposals to EEDA by September.

With respect to regeneration, based on Dacorum borough council's programme of development, CLG has made a provisional award under the housing growth areas scheme for 2008-09 of £2.71 million and an indicative provisional award of £3.814 million for the period 2009-11. The East of England Development Agency has also provided £4.5 million to date—some £2 million pre-incident—and has pledged a further £2 million of any public gap-funding required to enable phase one of the Maylands Gateway masterplan to proceed. This includes funding for a Maylands partnership and recovery director as a focal point for recovery and regeneration activity and around £1.8 million of funding for a business support centre. Industry has also contributed a substantial sum to the restoration of business activities and regeneration in the local area.

EEDA is working closely with Dacorum borough council and local stakeholders, developing proposals to designate the area as a new town improvement district. If agreed, following a vote by local business, this will create a substantial funding stream beginning as early as April 2009, directly controlled by local businesses, further to fund local infrastructure investment.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government will lead Government consideration of the most recent MIIB report, "Recommendations on Land Use Planning and the Control of Societal Risk around Major Hazard Sites", which was published on 15 July this year. CLG will respond substantively on behalf of the Government in due course.

Meanwhile, CLG officials have met members of the MIIB to discuss the board's recommendations. In developing the Secretary of State's response, CLG will work closely with both the HSE and the devolved administrations. It intends also to convene a stakeholders' group, comprising representatives from Government, regulators and industry, with whom to consult as the work proceeds.

The regulatory regime for controlling the citing of major hazard facilities and development around them is complex, involving a number of legislative instruments. CLG intends to commission a study to set out and explain the operation of the legislation controlling the planning application and hazardous substances consent processes, and to consider the scope for rationalisation and possible integration of these regimes. The study will also investigate the extent to which local planning authorities with active consents have relevant policies in their development plans.

To summarise, I can report to the House that in response to a series of very useful reports from the MIIB, the Government, the Competent Authority, industry—through the Buncefield standards task group—and others subject to the recommendations have responded promptly. They have set in train a programme of work that will ensure real improvements in the prevention of major incidents and, should major incidents occur, that effective plans are in place to respond and recover in the best way possible.

Petitions

Monday 3 November 2008

Petition presented to the House but not read on the Floor

PETITION PRESENTED

Public Conveniences (Hull)

The Petition of residents of Hull and others,

Declares their concern at the plans of Hull City Council to reduce staffing at public toilets in the city; and notes that these changes would have a detrimental effect on the safety and cleanliness of the facilities.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to put pressure on Hull City Council to maintain staffing levels at public toilets in the city.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Ms Diana R. Johnson.]*

[P000281]

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Office Closures (Angus)

The Petition of the citizens of Glamis and surrounding area,

Declares the Petitioners' belief that the reduction of Glamis Post Office to an outreach service will have a serious detrimental effect on the local community and will undermine efforts to encourage new businesses in rural Angus.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to keep Glamis Post Office open.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Mike Weir, Official Report*, 1 July 2008; Vol. 478, c. 836.]

[P000225]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 42 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these and continued to be rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The local public consultation on the North East, Tayside and Fife Area Plan proposal, which covers Glamis, ended on 8 July. POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Glamis branch will remain open. Details of the closures, Outreach services and any further reviews are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Bedfordshire)

The Petition of customers of Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard Post Office,

Declares that they strongly protest against the closure of their local Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to keep Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard Post Office open for the benefit of the local community, and especially the elderly and disabled, and all those who would find it particularly difficult to travel to other Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 620.]

[P000238]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Lincolnshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Hockliffe Street post office in Leighton Buzzard is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of customers of High Street South, Dunstable Post Office,

Declares that they strongly protest against the closure of their local Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to keep High Street South, Dunstable Post Office open for the benefit of the local community, and especially the elderly and disabled, and all those who would find it particularly difficult to travel to other Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 621.]

[P000239]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Lincolnshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the High Street South post office in Dunstable is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of customers of Luton Road, Dunstable Post Office,

Declares that they strongly protest against the closure of their local Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to keep Luton Road, Dunstable Post Office open for the benefit of the local community, and especially the elderly and disabled, and all those who would find it particularly difficult to travel to other Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 621.]*

[P000240]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Lincolnshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Luton Road post office in

Dunstable is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of customers of Linslade Post Office,

Declares that they strongly protest against the closure of their local Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to keep Linslade Post Office open for the benefit of the local community, and especially the elderly and disabled, and all those who would find it particularly difficult to travel to other Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 620.]

[P000241]

Observations for the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Lincolnshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet confirming that the Linslade post office will be submitted for further review.

Where Postwatch, the consumer watchdog, can show, in respect of an individual branch, POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for that branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements, there is an agreed review mechanism. Details of the closures and further reviews, including Linsdale will be available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The Petition of customers of Eaton Bray Post Office,

Declares that they strongly protest against the closure of their local Post Office.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to keep Hockliffe Street, Leighton Buzzard Post Office open for the benefit of the local community, and especially the elderly and disabled, and all those who would find it particularly difficult to travel to other Post Offices.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew Selous, Official Report*, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 620.]

[P000242]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Cambridgeshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and South Lincolnshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Eaton Bray post office is to close. Details of the closures and any further reviews are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or:
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Manchester)

The Petition of those concerned about the proposed closure of Post Offices in South Manchester,

Declares that they support the campaigns to save Post Offices in South Manchester, in particular Parrs Wood and Ladybarn Post Offices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd. to ensure that Post Office in South Manchester, in particular Parrs Wood and Ladybarn Post Offices remain open

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. John Leech, Official Report*, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 624.]

[P000253]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of some 50 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and have been rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of the year. The consultation period for Greater Manchester with High Peak has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that the Ladybarn and Parrs Wood branches are to close. The decision document confirming the branches to close and the Outreach proposals put forward is published on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group, will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Post Office Closures (Staffordshire)

The Humble Petition of customers of May Bank High Street Post Office,

Sheweth

That the Petitioners believe that the branch provides a vital service to the local community.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House urges the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to instruct Post Office Ltd to ensure that the May Bank High Street Post Office is retained.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Paul Farrelly, Official Report, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 622.]*

[P000256]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It is developing a rolling programme of 42 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on

2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be completed by the end of this year. The consultation period for Shropshire and Staffordshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL has confirmed that May Bank branch is to close. Further details of the closures are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange.

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An additional stage to the review process was added last November for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3; in such cases Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

Petitions

Wednesday 5 November 2008

OBSERVATIONS

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Post Offices (Essex)

The Humble Petition of the residents of Castle Point and others,

Sheweth

That our local Post Offices are important to community cohesion, that they provide a vital service to the local community, particularly to vulnerable people, but that their future is threatened by uncertainty over Her Majesty's Government's support for Post Offices generally, and specifically by the possible abolition of the Post Office Card Account in 2010, which would be totally unacceptable to the residents of Castle Point, especially vulnerable groups who rely on Post Offices and the viability of our important high street shopping parades.

Wherefore your Petitioners pray that your Honourable House call upon Her Majesty's Government to review its policy on Post Offices and to recognise that they are greatly loved by the community.

And your Petitioners, as in duty bound, will ever pray, &c.—*[Presented by Bob Spink, Official Report, 6 October 2008; Vol. 480, c. 10P.]*

[P000268]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform:

The Government fully recognises the important social and economic role of post offices, particularly in rural and deprived urban communities. That is why it is determined to maintain a national post office network allowing people to have reasonable access across the whole country and has put in place a new policy and financial framework to achieve this. The Government has been investing substantial sums in the post office network, totalling £2 billion since 1999. That has, for example, paid for a computer link-up for every post office as well as support for non-commercial branches since 2003.

In its response to the consultation on the Post Office network the Government announced in May 2007 confirmation of its decision to extend funding of up to £1.7 billion to 2011, including provision of £150 million Social Network Payment to support the post office network up to 2011. The Government strategy includes provision for 2,500 compensated closures and 500 new Outreach services.

The 500 new and innovative Outreach locations, operated in partnership with other local services such as in pubs, village halls, churches or in mobile post offices, will mitigate closures, primarily in smaller and more remote communities. Post Office Limited (POL) announced on 9 April that it will extend Outreach trials into urban areas which, if successful, could mean additional Outreach branches over and above the 500 originally planned. Nevertheless, there will need to be up to 2,500 compensated post office closures within the defined access criteria.

POL is responsible for implementing the network change programme at a local level. It has developed a rolling programme of 42 local consultations on detailed area plans, based on groups of Parliamentary constituencies. The first area plans went out to local consultation on 2 October last year and these plans were rolled out at regular intervals until August, with the whole programme scheduled to be complete by the end of this year. The consultation period for South Essex, South Hertfordshire and Buckinghamshire has finished and POL has published its Area Plan Decision Booklet on its website. Having considered all representations and the criteria for the network change programme POL have confirmed that the Dovervelt Road and New Thundersley branches are to close. Details of the closures and further review are available on the POL website at: www.postoffice.co.uk/networkchange

POL develops its proposals with the participation of sub-postmasters, local authorities and the consumer watchdog, Postwatch, and takes into account the numeric access criteria set out by Government as well as local factors affecting ease of access, such as local geography: rivers, mountains etc when drawing up its implementation plans. POL is also required to consider the availability of public transport and alternative access to key post office services, local demographics and the impact on the local economy. Local consultations provide the opportunity to raise any specific concerns over particular proposals.

The Government does not have a role in proposals or decisions for individual post offices. No decisions on individual Post Offices are taken until after local consultations. Those decisions are made by POL in light of the responses to the consultation while subject to a four-stage appeals process involving Postwatch. The Review Process for closure decisions after public consultation process applies where Postwatch shows that, for an individual branch:

> POL has not given due consideration to material evidence received during the public consultation in coming to its decision or;
>
> where evidence emerges from the consultation that the proposal for the branch does not meet the Government's policy requirements.

The aim of the further review process is for POL and Postwatch to reach an agreed way forward by bilateral review with 3 stages available at increasing levels of seniority. An addition to the review process last November provides that for very difficult cases which remain unresolved after stage 3, Allan Leighton, Chairman of Royal Mail Group will review the issues and reach a final decision.

The current contract for the Post Office card account (POCA) ends in March 2010 and the Government has made clear that there will be a new account after that, to be known as the Government card account. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) is the contracting authority for POCA, and is currently managing the procurement process for the new account. A decision is expected later in the autumn.

HEALTH

NHS GP Surgeries

The Petition of supporters of NHS General Practice surgeries,

Declares that in the 60th year of the NHS the House of Commons should support existing NHS GP surgeries, improve services to patients by further investment in existing GP surgeries and be aware of the risks posed by Government plans to promote the use of commercial companies in general practice. further declares that they do not want public funding to move from GP practices to commercial companies who are accountable primarily to shareholders rather than patients, and declares that they wish to be treated by GPs who see them as patients, rather than as customers.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Secretary of State for Health to continue support for existing GP surgeries, improve services to patients by further investment in existing GP surgeries, and to halt its plans to promote the use of commercial companies in general practice because this risks destabilising local surgeries and threatens the comprehensive, high quality care currently received from GPs

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr. Philip Dunne, Official Report,* 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 21P.]

[P000258]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The Government is investing record amounts in GP services (an increase of over 50% since 2003/04) and there are a record number of GPs (19% more than in 1997). This investment has secured major improvements in access to services and in the quality of care for people with long-term conditions. Public satisfaction with GP services is generally high.

The Government is continuing to invest in GP services. We are consulting the British Medical Association (BMA) on a £105 million package of investment in GP services for 2008-09, including some £50 million for local schemes to make services more accessible and responsive to patients and a further £50 million to improve the range and quality of clinical services.

Despite generally high levels of patient satisfaction, members of the public have told us that their number one priority for improving the NHS further would be to be able to see a GP at times that are more convenient for them, for example in the evening or at weekends. In March 2008, the BMA agreed the Government's proposals to reward surgeries that offer evening and weekend opening. PCTs are now working with GPs to agree arrangements that meet the needs of local people. In the first three months there has already been significant progress. As at September, over 51 per cent. of GP practices across England are now providing extended opening hours, and by the end of the year we expect at least half of GP practices will be offering this service to their patients.

Last autumn, the Government also announced £250 million of new investment to enable every PCT to provide a GP-led health centre—open 12 hours a day, 7 days a week—and to help tackle inequalities by establishing over 100 extra GP surgeries in areas with the fewest GPs and greatest health needs.

With the new GP health centres, one in every PCT area, patients will be able to remain registered with their own GP but may also use the services provided by the health centre if they wish. This will mean people can see a GP for a routine consultation if they are away from home or at times that their local GP practice is not open, either by booking ahead or just turning up. These services will be in addition to, not instead of, existing GPs.

There is no truth whatsoever in the suggestion that the Government is moving funding from existing GP practices in order to pay for these new services.

It is open to any provider to bid to run the GP health centres and new GP surgeries, whether it is a group of local GPs, a voluntary organisation, social enterprise or an independent provider. Allowing this wide range of potential providers to bid helps to drive up quality, innovation and value for money and to ensure that patients receive the best possible service. The early indications are that the majority of expressions of interest are coming from existing GPs and that there are a number of collaborative bids between GPs and other sectors.

We already have excellent examples of GP services and other primary and community care services throughout the country. Our aim is to ensure that all patients have universally good access to high quality services and the ability to make increased choices about the services they receive

Petitions

Thursday 6 November 2008

OBSERVATIONS

TREASURY

HMRC Workforce Change (Cornwall)

The Petition of those concerned about the closure of local HMRC offices in Cornwall.

Declares that they are concerned about cuts to public services, particularly the proposed closure of the HMRC offices.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges HM Treasury to reconsider the decision to close local HMRC offices in Cornwall, which provide an excellent service to local people.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Andrew George, Official Report, 21 July 2008; Vol. 479, c. 623.]*

[P000251]

Observations from the Chancellor of the Exchequer:

The Government notes the petition, and makes the following observations:

The Government notes that HMRC published on 11 June 2008 its proposals for restructuring its operations in cluster and individual locations in the South-West, which includes Cornwall. All representations will be taken into account before final decisions are made later this year on the future of offices in Cornwall and the other offices under review. HMRC will continue to maintain a local face to face advice service to customers by retaining inquiry centre services at or near their current locations.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 3 November 2008

WORK AND PENSIONS

Age: Discrimination

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated relating to age discrimination. [230130]

Mr. McFadden: I have been asked to reply.

BERR has commissioned The Second Fair Treatment at Work Survey recently to look at employees' perceptions of discrimination in the workplace. A report will be available mid-2009. BERR commissioned the Fair Treatment at Work Survey in 2005 and has provided some initial findings on discrimination in the workplace. An Executive Summary was published in March 2007.

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file38386.pdf

BERR and DWP jointly commissioned the Survey of Employers' Policies and Practices relating to age in 2005. This looked at the extent to which employment policies and practices were in accordance with equality of opportunity with regard to age. The survey was carried out prior to the implementation of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations in 2006. A report was published in March 2006.

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file24984.pdf.

We intend to carry out a follow-up survey jointly with DWP in 2009. Results will be available in 2010.

Child Support Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the Child Support Agency was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228620]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support agency is a matter for the chef executive. He will write to the right hon. and learned Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the cost to the public purse of the Child Support Agency was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228620]

The Agency's operating cost for the year ending March 2008 was £563 million and for the previous year ending March 2007 was £520 million.

The Agency publishes its annual operating costs each year in its Annual Report and Accounts, current and previous copies of which are available in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.csa.gov.uk/en/about/publications-corporate.asp#AnnRep

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in compensation by the Child Support Agency to *(a)* parents with care of one or more children and *(b)* non-resident parents in each of the last five years. [226118]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in compensation by the Child Support Agency to (a) parents with care of one or more children and (b) non-resident parents in each of the last five years. [226118]

The Agency operates a discretionary, non-statutory scheme providing financial redress for maladministration and recompense where error or delays have had an adverse effect on clients' lives. Information on the total amount paid in financial redress under this scheme is published each year in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are held in the House of Commons library or online at the following link:

http://www.csa.gov.Uk/en/about/publications-corporate.asp#AnnRep

Information on the total amount paid to redress actual financial loss, provide compensation for delay and consolatory payments are set out in the attached table. The information available relates to the total number and value of payments made, as the Agency does not collate information on the amount paid to either parents with care or non-resident parents.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Number and value of payments made by Child Support Agency for financial loss, compensation for delay and consolatory payments

	Actual financial loss		Compensation for delay		Consolatory	
	Number of payments authorised	Total value of payments (£ million)	Number of payments authorised	Total value of payments (£ million)	Number of payments authorised	Total value of payments (£ million)
1998-99	4,300	3.3	1,100	0.3	4,200	0.6
1999-00	3,700	1.8	700	0.3	4,500	0.5
2000-01	5,200	1.9	800	0.2	6,600	0.7
2001-02	6,300	1.6	900	0.2	8,300	0.7
2002-03	5,900	1.3	700	0.2	8,400	0.7
2003-04	4,900	1.4	800	0.1	5,600	0.4
2004-05	7,100	2.4	1,700	0.1	9,000	0.6
2005-06	5,900	3.1	2,100	0.2	9,200	0.6
2006-07	4,700	2.5	1,900	0.4	9,200	0.7
2007-08	4,700	3.4	1,900	0.4	9,300	0.7

Notes:

1. Figures relate to payments made only. It is not possible to identify how many of the payments authorised were for individual clients, or whether the clients were parents with care or non-resident parents.
2. Number of authorised payments rounded to nearest 100. Value of payments rounded to nearest £0.1 million.
3. Figures to 2007-08 show payments awarded in each year for actual financial loss, compensation for delay and consolatory payments. These will include timing differences when reconciling the Annual Report and Accounts.

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what measures he has put in place to facilitate the clearing of arrears in child maintenance owed by absent parents; and if he will make a statement. [227633]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what measures he put in place to facilitate the clearing of arrears in child maintenance owed by absent parents; and if he will make a statement. [227633]

Since April 2006, under its three year Operational Improvement Plan the Agency put in place a number of improvements to support the collection of child maintenance debt, including the contracting out of some debt collection activity to private debt collection agencies and the introduction of more flexible payment methods such as credit and debit cards. We have also increased the number of our people engaged in enforcement activities and have improved the tools and processes allowing them to undertake enforcement work more effectively.

As a result the Agency is collecting more child maintenance arrears than it has ever done before and in September 2008 collected £14.6 million in maintenance arrears alone, more than twice the average amount collected each month before the introduction of the Operational Improvement Plan. Since March 2008, the Agency has collected £80.3 million in arrears, bringing to almost £297 million the total collected in maintenance arrears alone since April 2006.

The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 strengthens the range of enforcement and debt management powers available to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission. These include:

Deduction of maintenance payments and/or arrears from bank accounts;

Removing the need to apply to the court for a Liability Order;

Recovering arrears from deceased non resident parents' estates;

Applying to the court for disqualification from holding or obtaining a passport;

Applying to the court for a curfew.

The Commission will bring these powers into force as soon as practicable in order to build on the Agency's improvements and will continue to focus on collection of outstanding arrears.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Hemel Hempstead receive the mobility component of disability living allowance at the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate. [232596]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Disability living allowance—cases in payment by mobility component type: Hemel Hempstead parliamentary constituency February 2008

	Cases
Higher rate	1,750
Lower rate	1,090

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. These figures are published on the DWP website at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the Heffernan judgement in the House of Lords on 30 July 2008 on the delivery of local housing allowance; and if he will make a statement. [229578]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* Following the judgment in the case of Mr. Heffernan, The Rent Service have revised their guidance to the rent officers on the setting of locality boundaries. As I said to the House on 20 October, I am also considering the implications of the judgment in the context of the current wider review of housing benefit.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance number registrations have been granted to non-UK *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU citizens in each quarter since 2004. [225138]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 8 October 2008]:* The available information is in the following table:

National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the United Kingdom by quarter of registration and EU/Non-EU status

		Thousand
	EU Nationals	*Non-EU nationals*
2004		
January to March	37.68	77.96
April to June	31.93	60.66
July to September	40.82	53.55
October to December	53.43	56.05
2005		
January to March	71.37	66.94
April to June	80.93	68.91
July to September	95.43	75.81
October to December	90.53	68.09
2006		
January to March	107.64	75.15
April to June	77.39	56.38
July to September	91.04	60.37
October to December	98.64	65.94
2007		
January to March	153.18	102.44
April to June	99.41	66.63

National insurance number registrations to adult overseas nationals entering the United Kingdom by quarter of registration and EU/Non-EU status

		Thousand
	EU Nationals	*Non-EU nationals*
July to September	121.38	68.46
October to December	108.29	76.67
2008		
January to March	110.83	80.93

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and displayed in thousands.
2. There are a small number of registrations where citizens' nationalities are unknown, these are not included.
3. Registration date is derived from the date at which a national insurance number is entered on the National Insurance Recording System.
4. When presenting the EU time series, countries which joined the EU during the time series have been included in the EU for the whole of the time series, to facilitate comparisons over time.
5. The EU time series excludes national insurance numbers registered to UK nationals.
6. The figures do not include any national insurance numbers that may have been issued to young foreign nationals under Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs juvenile registration scheme.

Source:
100 per cent. extract from National Insurance Recording System This information is taken from a table published on the DWP website at:
http://83.244.183.180/mgw/final/final/qtr/world/
a_stock_r_qtr_c_world_apr08.html

Pension Credit

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the administrative costs have been of managing the pension credit system since its introduction; how much was paid in pension credit in each year; and what the percentage take-up of pension credit by *(a)* men and *(b)* women was in each year since its introduction. [230843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following table shows the administrative costs for managing the pension credit system since its inception in October 2003. Please note that due to the launch of pension credit in October 2003, the figures for the financial year 2003-04 are low in comparison to future years; years 2004-06 administrative costs are at their highest due to these years being the peak years for achieving the PSA target; and years 2006-08 represent steady state. The lower costs for 2007-08 represent the impact of the Pension Transformation Programme (PTP) and the introduction of PTP wave 1.

Administrative costs of pension credit

					£ million
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Operations cost	108	148	138	—	—
Central functions cost	—	50	81	—	—
Non-staff cost	—	14	14	—	—
Operations total	108	212	233	167	151
Local service	—	—	—	23	19
Total administrative cost	108	212	233	190	182

Notes:
1. All data taken from ABM except central directorate costs from Pensions Finance Data Warehouse.
2. 2003-04 costs are the operational costs for pension credit only i.e. they exclude central and non-staff costs which are not available.
3. 2004-05 and 2005-06 central functions and non-staff costs pro rated from pension credit share of operations costs.
4. Final 2007-08 outturn total = £404.29 million.

The following table shows the benefit expenditure for pension credit every year since its inception in October 2003.

					£
Pension credit	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Guaranteed Credit	2,149,436,784.43	5,021,469,725.15	5,373,055,921.09	5,678,257,755.67	6,024,504,180.52
Savings Credits	321,405,374.33	952,231,720.09	1,052,473,111.63	1,148,677,229.05	1,221,796,985.76
Out of Hours Service	-65.00	-3,569.62	-70.00	—	-100.00
LPS	—	—	16,049,910.87	85,339,674.90	147,610,977.68
Total	2,470,842,093.76	5,973,697,875.62	6,441,578,873.59	6,912,274,659.62	7,393,912,043.96

Source:
Accounting, Shared Services, Norcross.

The percentage of take-up for pension credit by male/female gender for every quarter since October 2003 are shown in the following table.

Pension credit case load, number of claimants and percentage by gender of claimant

		Percentage of case load	
	Total case load claimants (Thousand)	*Female*	*Male*
November 2003	2,084.70	64.9	35.1
February 2004	2,282.29	64.4	35.6
May 2004	2,490.76	64.0	36.0
August 2004	2,592.59	63.8	36.2
November 2004	2,629.58	63.7	36.3

Pension credit case load, number of claimants and percentage by gender of claimant

	Total case load claimants (Thousand)	Percentage of case load Female	Male
February 2005	2,654.67	63.6	36.4
May 2005	2,682.73	63.4	36.6
August 2005	2,696.66	63.3	36.7
November 2005	2,708.05	63.1	36.9
February 2006	2,709.22	63.0	37.0
May 2006	2,717.39	62.9	37.1
August 2006	2,728.15	62.8	37.2
November 2006	2,738.56	62.7	37.3
February 2007	2,730.94	62.5	37.5
May 2007	2,733.50	62.4	37.6
August 2007	2,735.72	62.3	37.7
November 2007	2,734.54	62.2	37.8
February 2008	2,723.14	62.1	37.9

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Pensioners: Poverty

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps he has taken to tackle pensioner poverty; and if he will make a statement. [231490]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Tackling pensioner poverty remains one of this Government's key priorities.

The Government have introduced a number of measures to help older people out of poverty. In 1997, the poorest pensioners lived on around £69 a week, today pension credit ensures that no pensioner needs to live on less than £124.05 a week (£189.35 for a couple). We have successively raised the standard minimum guarantee in pension credit at least in line with earnings in every year since its introduction, and the value of the safety-net we provide for the poorest pensioners has increased by over a third in real terms since 1997.

We have made good progress in tackling pensioner poverty. Between 1998-99 and 2006-07 the number of pensioners in low income in the UK has fallen from 2.9 million to 2.1 million (measured by 60 per cent. of contemporary median income after housing costs.)

Our commitments in the Pensions Act 2007 to continue to uprate the pension credit standard minimum guarantee at least in line with earnings over the long term, and to reintroduce the earnings link to basic state pension from 2012, or by the end of the next Parliament, will help secure the gains we have made into the future.

We are striving to ensure that older people are aware of, and take up their entitlements through initiatives such as: using sophisticated data matching to identify those who may be entitled to, but not currently receiving, benefits; home visits for vulnerable customers; targeted local marketing and media campaigns; a simple and straightforward claim process and ever closer working with partner organisations.

In addition to pension credit we have increased winter fuel payments to £200 for households with someone aged 60-79, and £300 for those with someone aged 80 or over. We will be making an additional payment for winter 2008-09 of £50 for households with someone aged 60 to 79 and £100 for those with someone aged 80 or over. Since 1997, we have also introduced free eye-tests, free off-peak bus travel for pensioners and free television licences for those aged over 75.

Pensions

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage people to pay into pension schemes. [227372]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pensions Bill, which is currently progressing through Parliament, will bring in arrangements to encourage individuals to make provisions for their own retirement through the introduction of automatic enrolment. In addition, for the first time, employers will also be required to contribute to workers' pensions.

We estimate that the Bill's provisions will result in between 6 and 9 million people newly saving in a workplace pension—or saving more—as a result, thus transforming the savings culture in the UK.

Post Office Card Account

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library the tender documentation setting out the criteria by which the contract to replace the Post Office Card Account was awarded including *(a)* specifications, *(b)* invitation to tender or negotiate and *(c)* descriptive documentation; and if he will make a statement. [231510]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 29 October 2008]*: The tender process for the contract for the Post Office card account successor is still under way and a decision on the outcome is yet to be made.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of cold weather payments to be made in 2008-09 and *(b)* the cost of the payments. [226201]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

The cost of cold weather payments for 2008-09 cannot be estimated because it is dependent on the severity of the winter. However, a notional figure of £24 million will be included in the forecasts for the Social Fund, provided to HM Treasury.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many pensioners aged 60 years and over claimed the annual £250 winter fuel payment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and (d) the UK in each year since its inception; [231416]

(2) how many pensioners aged 80 years and over claimed the annual £400 Winter Fuel Payment in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [231491]

Ms Rosie Winterton: This winter we are making an additional payment with the winter fuel payment making the payment £250 and £400 for winter 2008-09.

For information on the number of payments made from 1999-2000 to 2006-07 I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 26 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1387-388. Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many press and communications officers are employed by his Department. [231335]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office employs two press officers, a chief press officer based in Edinburgh and a press officer based in London.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228745]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not directly recruit staff; all staff are seconded from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice, as necessary. The Office does not hold personnel records that would allow age to be determined.

Departmental Pay

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much Ministers in his Department claimed in expenses in each of the last three years. [222820]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office makes direct payments to Ministers only where they have personally incurred costs in relation to their Office. Payments have been made as follows:

	Payments made to Ministers (£)
2005-06	125.00
2006-07	463.46
2007-08	85.40

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in his Department in each year since 2001. [228957]

Ann McKechin: Details of passes lost or stolen are available only from January 2003; the following passes were lost or stolen:

	Lost	*Stolen*
2002-03[1, 2]	1	0
2003-04[1]	3	1
2004-05	2	0
2005-06	1	0
2006-07	1	0
2007-08	1	0

[1] These figures include passes lost by, or stolen from, staff in the Office of the Advocate General.

[2] Part year only.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230495]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not organise in-house courses provided by outside organisations; where staff need additional training, pre-existing courses are sourced and staff attend these. Also, all staff are on secondment from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice and have full access to the in-house courses organised by these Departments. The Office spent the following on external training:

	Spend on external training (£)
2004-05	11,123
2005-06	13,370
2006-07	13,969
2007-08	14,041

Payments, which include hiring of rooms, were made to

2004-05

British Red Cross
British Retail Consortium
British Wind Energy
CBI Scotland
CMPS
David Hume Institute
Holyrood Communications
Marketforce Communications Ltd
Mekon Ltd.
Penna Plc

QMW Public Policy Seminars
SCDI
Shelter
University of Edinburgh
University of Oxford
University of Wales
Waterfront

2005-06

British Red Cross
Citizens Advice Scotland
CMPS
DRCC Ltd.
Emap Communications
ESSA Finance
Holyrood Communications
MacKay Hannah
Marketforce Communications Ltd.
National School of Government
Neil Stewart Associates
Penna Plc
SCDI
Scottish Renewables
The British Wind Energy Association
The Institute for Fiscal Studies
Metropolitan Police
The Royal Terrace Hotel
University of Edinburgh
Waterfront

2006-07

Citizens Advice Scotland
Essex Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Historic Scotland
Holyrood Communications
Management Development Partnership
Marketforce Communications Ltd
Metropolitan Police
National School of Government
Novotel
Penna Plc
PSCA International
Scottish Renewables
The Association of Electoral Administrators
David Hume Institute
Unicom Seminars Ltd.
University College London
University of Edinburgh

2007-08

British Red Cross
City and Islington College
David Hume Institute
GovNet Communications
Hemsley Fraser
Holyrood Communications
Industrial and Power Association
Jogscotland
Metropolitan Police
Napier University
National School of Government
Needham
Penna Plc
Scottish Pre-Retirement Council, The
Scottish Refugee Council
University College London
University of Edinburgh

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Cromwell Green Entrance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission pursuant to the answer of 22 July 2008, *Official Report,* columns 983-84W, on Cromwell Green, what action has been taken to recover budget overruns from the appointed consultants; what sums have or are likely to be recovered; who the members of the Project Advisory Board were; who authorised the extension of the project to cover the Grand Committee Room roof, Westminster Hall south steps and floor repairs; on what basis that extension was authorised; and who was in overall charge of the project. [230245]

Nick Harvey: The House Administration is undertaking a liability review and assessment that will determine the full extent of any monies to be recovered from consultants. Once assessed, if required, negotiations for repayment will occur. Sums have been retained against some consultants, but the full extent of any recovery will not be known until the liability assessment and negotiations are finalised.

The Project Advisory Board included various members of staff from both Houses of Parliament led (a) from inception in September 2004, through design and tender of the works by the then Director of Parliamentary Estates and (b) from contractor appointment through construction until summer 2007 by the then Serjeant at Arms. At that stage, in the light of delays and construction problems, a project recovery manager was appointed who initially reported to the Clerk of the House and Chief Executive and then, from autumn 2007, to a new Project Board led by the Principal Clerk of Select Committees. This has seen the project through to completion and post-completion trialling and operation.

The extension to the project to include the Grand Committee Room roof and Westminster Hall steps was authorised by the Project Advisory Board early in the project in 2004 on the basis that to do so might create a more beneficial price for the works and a more timely construction period and to do otherwise would create potential conflict of working area arrangements.

Official Report

Mr. Amess: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will take steps to ensure that the *Official Report* is published on the Parliamentary intranet in PDF format; what discussions the Commission has had with the House of Lords authorities about the availability on the Parliamentary intranet of House of Lords *Hansard* in PDF format; and if he will make a statement. [229499]

Nick Harvey: Officials are aware of this development in the Lords but, apart from questions from the hon. Member for Southend, West, there has been no demand for a similar arrangement in the Commons. Such a change would have implications for the current contractual arrangements for distributing the *Official Report*, although these are kept under continual review.

Parliamentary Ombudsman

Stephen Williams: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the Commission's role is in responding to Questions from hon. Members on the funding and administration of the parliamentary ombudsman. [232326]

Nick Harvey: The Commission has no role in the funding or administration of the parliamentary ombudsman. These are matters for the Cabinet Office.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what assessment she has made of the cost effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of the Government Equalities Office. [226507]

Maria Eagle: In the last 12 months the Government Equalities Office has run a small recruitment campaign to fill some key vacancies. This advertising was successful in filling these vacancies. The GEO has not commissioned any other advertising.

Departmental Reports

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality when the Government Equalities Office expects to publish its annual accounts. [224777]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2007-08 were laid before Parliament on 21 July 2008 and published at:

www.equalities.gov.uk

on 13 August 2008.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses since its establishment. [231235]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007, the Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on Plain English Campaign training courses.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Leader of the House what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by her Office in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [231436]

Chris Bryant: In the last 12 months one laptop has been reported stolen from the Leader of the House of Commons Office. The laptop was used to update the office website and did not contain any personal data or other sensitive information. No data have been lost.

Oral Questions

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Leader of the House for what reasons there is a longer notice period for tabling questions for oral answer to the Secretaries of State for Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland than for questions to other Ministers. [232606]

Chris Bryant: The Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland Offices do not themselves hold most of the information on which Ministers need to draw in answering parliamentary questions on issues which are the responsibility of the devolved administrations. While the devolved administrations and other Departments are happy to provide information, the additional time involved means that three days' notice would not be enough for Ministers to be able to give full answers in the House.

This issue was raised by the Procedure Committee in its Third Report of 2001-02 (HC 622); the Government's response was published as Cm 5628.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much was spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants from her Office in the last 12 months. [228778]

Tessa Jowell: Details of how much the Cabinet Office spent on overnight accommodation by civil servants in the last 12 months are not held centrally and are therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in her Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226427]

Tessa Jowell: The information requested is a matter of public record. I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) on 6 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1185W.

Olympic Games 2012: Education

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the Field Studies Council's proposals to site a residential urban education centre in the Olympic Park after the London 2012 Olympics. [232211]

Tessa Jowell: I am aware of the proposals made by the Field Studies Council (FSC). The FSC wrote to me earlier this year and I suggested that they meet with the London Development Agency (LDA), as interim clients for the Olympic Legacy Park, and my officials from the Government Olympic Executive (GOE). This meeting took place on 7 May 2008, when the FSC's proposals were discussed in detail in the context of the Legacy Masterplan Framework (LMF) being developed by the LDA. The LMF sets out the framework of homes, education and health facilities, workspaces, infrastructure and parkland that will need to be put in place following the 2012 Games. Another meeting is scheduled to take place in November, between the FSC, LDA and GOE, when the proposals will be considered further.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how much her Office has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since its establishment. [231231]

Tessa Jowell: My office has not spent anything on Plain English Campaign training courses since its establishment.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Agriculture: Lancashire

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the economy of Ribble Valley constituency was derived from agriculture *(a)* at the most recent date for which figures are available, *(b)* in 2008, *(c)* in 1998 and *(d)* in 1988. [230934]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of the economy of Ribble Valley constituency was derived from agriculture (a) in the most recent date for which figures are available, (b) in 2008, (c) in 1998 and (d) in 1988. (230934)

Information on economic activity by sector is not available for areas below NUTS3: Lancashire County Council.

Catz Club

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to my right hon Friend for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 262-63, on the voluntary sector, what the timetable is for his review of the Catz Club, payments made to it by Futurebuilders and the removal of funding of Catz Club from the Futurebuilders website. [231212]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* Pursuant to the answer given on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 262-63, the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster reviewed this case and wrote to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 23 October 2008. A copy of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 262-63, on the voluntary sector, for what reasons Futurebuilders removed references to its funding of the charity Catz Club from its website. [231213]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The Futurebuilders Fund is managed by Futurebuilders England Ltd. (FBE) under contract to the Cabinet Office.

I understand that FBE did remove some references to Catz Club from their website on 12 September 2008, on the basis that they were no longer an investee of Futurebuilders.

Census

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the 2011 Census; and how much has been spent to date on trials prior to that census. [230808]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the estimated total cost to the public purse is of the 2011 Census, and how much has been spent to date on trials prior to that Census. (230808)

On the basis of present planning assumptions, the cost of the 2011 Census in England and Wales over the period 2005-2016 is currently estimated to be around £487 million. Innovations for the 2011 Census within this budget include online completion of questionnaires and the tracking of each questionnaire from printing to processing through a robust form tracking system. We are also carrying out significant address register development and address checking work for the 2011 Census.

The Censuses in Northern Ireland and Scotland are devolved matters.

With regard to spend to date on trials prior to the 2011 Census, the way the programme of work is structured means that it is not possible to isolate expenditure specifically for testing activities. The development work has included elements of questionnaire design, address checking, and small-scale testing of components of the field operation together with the 2007 Test covering some 100,000 households. The spend to date from 2005 on planning and development for the 2011 Census is £34 million.

Charitable Donations: Occupied Territories

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) whether UK-based charities may provide funds to illegal Israeli settlements within the rules administered by the Charity Commission; [229921]

(2) whether the Charity Commission has issued any guidance to UK charities operating in Israel regarding their ability to operate in illegal Israeli settlements; [229922]

(3) what steps the Charity Commission takes to determine that UK charities do not support individuals or organisations which violate international law or undermine human rights; [229923]

(4) if he will estimate the number of UK charities which are operating in illegal Israeli settlements; and if he will make a statement; [229942]

(5) if the Charity Commission will take steps to ensure that UK-based charities do not support Israeli settlement groups involved in committing violent acts against Palestinian civilians. [229943]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 24 October 2008:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Questions concerning charities operating in Israel and measures against UK charities supporting inappropriate individuals and/or organisations overseas.

The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The register of charities, which the Commission maintains, does not include charities which are based in other parts of the United Kingdom, so my answers below are confined to England and Wales only.

The issues you raise are complex and not answered easily in the Parliamentary Question form (although I attempt to, below). Our guidance, "Charities working internationally", available on our website (www.charitycommission.gov.uk) covers the principles that should be applied for charities working abroad and in areas of conflict and political tension. From your series of questions, I can see that you have an obvious interest in how UK charities are regulated in such areas, particularly the Middle East. If you would find it helpful, our Director of Legal and Compliance, Kenneth Dibble, will be happy to meet you to discuss our approach to regulation and what our requirements are for charities operating in these areas.

To take your PQs in turn:

PQ 229942: Charities that work overseas, and are registered with the Charity Commission, are obliged to describe the countries in which they work. However, they are not obliged to specify areas within those countries.

Based on information from the Register of Charities, 1,150 charities include Israel in their area of operations and 143 include 'Occupied Palestinian Territories'.

PQ 229921: Charities falling under our regulatory jurisdiction can only provide funds for activities that further the charity's purposes, which may include a defined beneficial class (ie a specified group of whom will benefit) and area(s) of operation (ie where that benefit will be applied). The main considerations for deciding what charitable activities will be carried out in any region and to any group of beneficiaries are, firstly, a demonstrable need of charity and, secondly, that the charitable aid or services are delivered within the law—both charity law and all other laws that apply.

PQ 229923: Charity trustees must act with due diligence to ensure that their charity's assets and reputation are not at undue risk of harm or abuse from the conduct or activities of the individuals and organisations they work with. They must also ensure that they operate within charity law, and any other applicable law. The Charity Commission has a statutory objective to promote compliance by charity trustees with their legal obligations. The Commission's Compliance and Support function is responsible for the delivery of its regulatory compliance work in this area. Our recently published "Risk and Proportionality Framework" for compliance work, available on our website, sets out the Commission's approach to regulatory compliance work.

PQ 229943: Charities must operate within the law. It is unacceptable for a charity to support violent or unlawful activities, either in the UK or overseas. The Commission issues a range of guidance to charity trustees to assist them in mitigating the risk of the charity's assets or reputation being used in such unacceptable ways. Where a charity's assets or reputation are abused (whether deliberately or unwittingly) to support such activities, the Commission will act swiftly to resolve the issues—either by providing support to trustees or, where necessary, intervening by using the Commission's legal powers.

PQ 229922: The Charity Commission has issued guidance to the charity sector on "Charities Working Internationally" which is publicly available on the Commission's website. The Charity Commission has also issued specific guidance on undertaking particular types of charitable activity such as the relief of need, education and so on. This guidance supports charity trustees to ensure that, no matter what their activities are or where they occur, those activities are charitable and legitimate.

I hope this is helpful and please do let my office know if you would like a meeting with Kenneth Dibble.

Charities

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) how many charities registered in the UK operate outside the UK; and in what countries; [230100]

(2) how many charitable organisations the Charity Commission has penalised for receiving illegitimate donations in each of the last five years; and how many of those had religious objects. [230101]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 24 October 2008:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, it falls to me to respond to your Parliamentary questions concerning charities operating internationally and: the number of charities penalised by the Commission for receiving illegal donations in each of the last five years.

The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The register of charities, which the Commission maintains, does not include charities which are based in other parts of the United Kingdom. I take each question in turn below.

PQ 230100: Charities which work overseas, and are registered with the Charity Commission, are obliged to describe the countries in which they work. However, they are not obliged to specify areas within those countries.

Based on information from the register, there are 41,901 charities, based in England and Wales, which operate overseas. A copy of a table which indicates which countries registered charities are operating in has been placed in the Library of the House.

PQ 230101: While the Charity Commission maintains records of the published reports of all the statutory inquiries it has undertaken over the last five years, it does not record this information centrally. Therefore, due to the significant time required to analyse the Commission's records manually, this question can only be answered at disproportionate cost.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil service and executive agency jobs have been *(a)* created in and *(b)* relocated to York in each year since 1992. [230252]

Yvette Cooper: I have been asked to reply.

HM Treasury does not hold data in the format requested. Since 2004, under the Lyons Relocation Programme, 123 posts have been relocated to York from London and the South East.

Overall, an additional 38,000 public sector jobs have been created in Yorkshire and the Humber Government office region over the last five years.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was paid *(a)* by (i) employees and (ii) employers and *(b)* to those receiving pension payment from the Civil Service pension scheme in each of the last five years. [229445]

Mr. Watson: The contributions paid by employees and employers to, and pensions paid from, the Principal Civil Service Pension Scheme for the last five years are detailed in the following table.

£000

	Contributions received		
	Employers	*Employees*[1]	*Pensions paid*
2002-03	1,543,082	206,357	2,570,481
2003-04	1,661,257	262,852	2,672,616
2004-05	1,700,579	286,531	2,790,906
2005-06	2,518,792	311,427	2,922,019
2006-07	2,699,816	324,976	3,063,802

[1] Employee contributions include amounts paid to purchase added years.

Death: Weather

Mr. Randall: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in *(a)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in each year since 1996-97. [231806]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many excess deaths from cold weather there were in the (a) London Borough of Hillingdon and (b) constituency of Uxbridge in each year since 1996-97. (231806)

Estimates of excess winter deaths are based on the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). It is not possible to say whether these deaths were related to cold weather. The table attached provides the number of excess winter deaths in (a) the London Borough of Hillingdon and (b) Uxbridge parliamentary constituency in 1996/97 to 2005/06 (the latest available).

Table 1: Excess winter deaths[1, 2] *London borough of Hillingdon and Uxbridge parliamentary constituency, 1996-97 to 2005-06*

Deaths (persons)

Winter	*Hillingdon*	*Uxbridge*
1996-97	250	40
1997-98	130	30
1998-99	130	30
1999-2000	240	80
2000-01	110	60
2001-02	120	30
2002-03	160	40
2003-04	70	20
2004-05	150	50
2005-06	120	30

[1] The estimated number of excess winter deaths is the difference between the number of deaths during the four winter months (December to March) and the average number of deaths during the preceding four months (August to November) and the following four months (April to July). Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 to reflect the fact that they are estimates.

[2] Data are based on deaths occurring in each month.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to my right hon. Friend for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government Departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [221972]

Mr. Watson: Information will be available in the Cabinet Office Mid-Year report, expected to be published shortly.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [231499]

Kevin Brennan: Details of the cost of provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers are not held centrally and are therefore only available at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many external consultants were under contract to provide work for his Department as at 1 October 2008. [231497]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232727]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office informs the House of contingent liabilities relating to the Department and its non-departmental public bodies by disclosing them in a note to its published Annual Report and Accounts.

Contingent liabilities were reported at note 29 in the Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2004-05 [HC 372].

No contingent liabilities have been reported in subsequent years.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008-11. [228665]

Kevin Brennan: The published details of the funding for the Cabinet Office's non-departmental public bodies for 2008-11 can be found in the Central Government Supply Estimates 2008-09 Supplementary Budgetary Information, published April 2008 (Cm7359), pages 261 and 263, (Resource Budget DEL and AME-voted and non voted) and page 264, (Capital Budget DEL and AME—voted and non voted).The Estimates are available via the following website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/sbi0809_fulldoc.pdf

A small number only of the Department's NDPB funding and subsequent expenditures are broken down in the Central Government Supply Estimates 2008-09. The disclosure of the Independent Office and the Committee on Standards in Public Life is a new addition to the reporting for the Cabinet Office, where the details have been shown separately from the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 onwards.

Details of the funding for the Department's Executive NDPBs can also be found in the following publications:

Capacitybuilders and The Commission for the Compact: 2007 Pre-Budget Report and Comprehensive Spending Review, published on 9 October 2007 (Cm7227), page 108, box 6.5, copies of which are available via the following website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pbr_csr07_completereport_1546.pdf

Capacitybuilders: The Future Role of the Third Sector in Social and Economic Regeneration: Final Report, published in July 2007 (Cm7189), page 15.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much was spent on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [231450]

Kevin Brennan: Details of how much was spent on entertainment by the Cabinet Office in 2007-08 and how much was spent on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation is not held centrally and is therefore available only at disproportionate cost.

All Cabinet Office expenditure on entertainment is made in accordance with published departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, based on principles set out in "Managing Public Money" and the Treasury handbook on "Regularity and Propriety".

For details of receptions hosted by Cabinet Office Ministers in 2007-08 I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the right hon. Member for Maidenhead (Mrs. May) on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1257W.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228759]

Mr. Watson: During 2007-08, 363 people joined the Cabinet Office. Of these, nine people were aged over 55 (3 per cent.). In order to protect the privacy of the small numbers of people involved, it would not be appropriate to provide a further breakdown.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230966]

Mr. Byrne: I have not undertaken any such courses.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230944]

Kevin Brennan: The Department does not collate this information centrally and therefore it can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Agriculture

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in Essex are employed in agriculture. [231921]

Jane Kennedy: I have been asked to reply.

The total agricultural labour force on registered holdings in Essex (comprising Essex CC, Thurrock and Southend-on-Sea unitary authorities) at June 2007 is shown as follows.

	Number
Total farmers, partners, directors and spouses (if working on holding)	4,800
Total workers (full, part-time and casual)	4,599
Total labour force	9,399

Note:
As the annual June Survey is based on a sample, estimates have been made for holdings not surveyed.
Source:
June Agricultural Survey

Futurebuilders: Finance

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget for 2008-09 is of *(a)* Futurebuilders and *(b)* the Office of the Third Sector. [231334]

Kevin Brennan: The programme and administration budgets for the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) are published within the parliamentary estimates for the Cabinet Office—firstly in the main estimates and then updated in the winter and spring supplementary estimates. The budget for Futurebuilders is included with this figure.

Income Tax

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the liability for income tax for households in each income decile group in England and Wales was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what it will be for 2008-09. [230825]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the liability for income tax for households in each income decile group in England and Wales was in (a) 2006/07 and (b) 2007/08; and what it will be for 2008/09. (230825).

The table provided shows estimates of the average income tax, after deduction of tax credits, paid by households in England and Wales by income decile group. Of the years requested, data are only available for the year 2006/07 - figures for 2007/08 will be available in June 2009. Income tax estimates are shown both in the form of annual payments and as percentages of gross household income.

These figures are based on the same dataset which is used to produce the ONS's annual analysis 'The effects of taxes and benefits on household income' which can be found at http://www.statistics.gov.uk/taxesbenefits. This publication presents results for all UK households and therefore the estimates shown here for England and Wales differ slightly to those appearing in the annual analysis.

Average income tax[1] paid by households by income decile group, 2006-07

England and Wales

Decile groups of households ranked by equivalised disposable income

	Bottom	*2nd*	*3rd*	*4th*	*5th*	*6th*	*7th*	*8th*	*9th*	*Top*	*All households*
Income tax (£ per year)	280	520	850	1,550	2,560	3,430	4,840	6,730	8,810	19,340	4,890
Income tax (as a percentage of gross household income)	3.1	3.8	5.1	7.5	9.8	11.4	13	14.7	15.9	20.3	14.0

[1] After deduction of tax credits.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Population

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what proportion of projected growth in UK population he expects will be accounted for by *(a)* immigration and *(b)* natural growth at the point at which the domestic population reaches 70 million. [232523]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what proportion of projected growth in population she expects will be accounted for by (a) immigration and (b) natural growth at the point at which the domestic population reaches 70 million. (232523)

The most recent national population projections, based on mid-2006 population estimates, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007. Under the principal projection, the population of the UK is expected to reach 70 million in 2028.

Figures on the proportion of projected growth attributable to immigration and natural growth for the year 2031 are available. A table showing these proportions is given below.

Projected population growth by component, United Kingdom, 2006-31

	Principal projection
Total population increase between 2006 and 2031(thousand)	10,513
Resulting from:	
Assumed net migration (thousand)	4,912
Natural change assuming no migration (thousand)	3,214
Additional natural change from assumed level of net migration (thousand)	2,387
Percentage of population growth 2006-31 resulting from:	
Assumed net migration	47
Natural change assuming no migration	31
Additional natural change from assumed level of net migration	23

Source:
Migration and Population growth:
http://www.gad.gov.uk/Demography_Data/Population/2006/methodology/mignote.asp

Schools

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of materials his Department has distributed to schools in the last three years. [229272]

Mr. Watson: I refer to the answers given by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 619W. The wider Cabinet Office does not distribute any material to schools.

Strategy Unit

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* date, *(b)* location and *(c)* subject was of each (i) presentation given and (ii) seminar held by the Strategy Unit since 1 January 2008. [232040]

Kevin Brennan: The Strategy Unit holds two types of seminar: (i) Seminars organised by project teams with participants selected for their expertise according to the issues being addressed by the team; and (ii) a regular programme of lunchtime seminars involving presentations by external speakers on a range of strategic issues which are open to all Strategy Unit staff and invited officials across Whitehall. Copies of tables detailing the seminars held by the Strategy Unit have been placed in the Library of the House.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 562W, on taxis, how taxi costs are recorded on the Cabinet Office accounting system; and if he will make a statement. [231695]

Kevin Brennan: Expenditure on taxis may be recorded across a number of accounting codes, some of which may also include non-taxi expenditure, and therefore cannot be readily identified.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229096]

Mr. Watson: None.

Voluntary Organisations: Surveys

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the budget for the national survey of third sector organisations commissioned by the Office of the Third Sector from Ipsos MORI is; and if he will place a copy of the survey in the Library. [231332]

Kevin Brennan: The programme and administration budgets for the Office of the Third Sector (OTS) are published within the parliamentary estimates for the Cabinet Office—firstly in the main estimates and then updated in the winter and spring supplementary estimates. The budget for the national survey of third sector organisations is included within this figure.

Copies of the surveys used have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster when he plans to answer question 217221, on data handling procedures, tabled on 3rd July 2008. [229251]

Mr. Byrne: A reply has been sent to the hon. Member.

PRIME MINISTER

Banks

Anne Main: To ask the Prime Minister on what occasions he has met senior executives of *(a)* Lloyds TSB, *(b)* HBOS and *(c)* Bradford and Bingley in each of the last 12 months. [231769]

The Prime Minister: My officials and I have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a range of subjects.

Cabinet: Meetings

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to publish the costs associated with the recent Cabinet meeting in Birmingham; and if he will make a statement. [231596]

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister when he expects to publish the costs of the recent Cabinet visit to Birmingham. [232313]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1019W.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what rules cover those entitled to attend Cabinet meetings; and what powers he has to change such rules. [232174]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the Ministerial Appointments press notice released by my Office. Copies have been placed in the Library of the House and are also available on the No 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices

China: Olympic Games

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on the Olympic Games, what the names are of all those who *(a)* were invited to and *(b)* attended the reception for Team GB at Lancaster House. [232278]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W.

Imperial College London

Mr. Hands: To ask the Prime Minister what process was used to select the audience members at the question and answer session he held on 27 October 2008; what process was used to select the questions asked; whether any of the audience members were also members of political parties; and whether he had advance sight of any of the questions asked at the question and answer session. [232305]

The Prime Minister: The event was hosted and chaired by Imperial college. I had no prior notice of the questions.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, what form the continuous review of military and humanitarian efforts takes. [232931]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 666W.

Members' Interests

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister whether a list of Ministers' relevant interests declared to their Permanent Secretaries will be published in 2008. [232817]

The Prime Minister: The list is currently being updated and will be published as soon as the work is completed.

World War I: Anniversaries

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Prime Minister if he will attend the remembrance event at the Canadian High Commission on 4 November. [231764]

The Prime Minister: The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for North Durham (Mr. Jones) will be attending on behalf of the Government.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Licensing

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications there were for licences for animal experimentation in each year since 2005; how many licences were granted in each such year; and how many applications were rejected. [227146]

Meg Hillier: Details for licences granted since 2005 to date under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are shown in the following table. A feature of the regulatory regime under the 1986 Act is the discussion that often takes place at an early stage between applicants (or prospective applicants) and the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. When serious deficiencies are discovered during these early discussions, proposals unlikely to meet the Act's stringent requirements are revised or withdrawn before formal refusal becomes necessary.

Year project licence applied for	*Number of licences applied for*	*Number granted in 2005*	*Number granted in 2006*	*Number granted in 2007*	*Number granted in 2008*	*Number not proceeded with plus those still outstanding at end of the period*	*Number refused*
Project licences							
2005	492	386	88	4	1	13	0
2006	586	X	430	135	0	21	0
2007	599	X	X	458	109	32	0
2008 to date	610	X	X	X	458	152	0
Personal licences							
2005	1,784	1,567	204	5	3	5	0
2006	2,270	X	1,968	282	6	14	0
2007	2,505	X	X	2,267	209	29	0
2008 to date	2,059	X	X	X	1,933	126	0
Certificates of designation							
2005	5	4	—	—	—	1	—
2006	2	—	2	—	—	—	—
2007	2	X	X	2		0	0
2008 to date	2	X	X	X	1	1	0

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many laboratories were licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 in 2007. [228912]

Meg Hillier: As at 31 December 2007 there were 200 designated establishments licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986.

Crimes of Violence: Homosexuality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps police services in England have taken to use social networking sites to encourage reporting of homophobic hate crimes and incidents; and if she will make a statement. [227416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Association of Police Officers are reviewing the use of third party reporting mechanisms. The Minister of State for Security, Counter-Terrorism and Policing discussed the matter at a bi-lateral meeting with the Deputy Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police on 21 October 2008 both parties stated their desire to see a service provided and the Minister has asked Superintendent Paul Giannasi, the project lead for Race for Justice to urgently meet with Metropolitan Police officials to establish the feasibility and cost of a solution. The first meeting has taken place and a report will be considered by the Minister and the Commissioner when the work is complete. The service will then be reviewed and developed to allow links into 'social networking' and other internet schemes.

Departmental Computers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the number of computer devices left on overnight in her Department when not in use and *(b)* the cost per year of leaving computer devices on overnight when not in use in each of the last five years; and if she will make a statement. [217863]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not monitor or track how many devices have been left on overnight, so statistics for the past five years are not available.

We are initiating a project to implement technology that will ensure that all desktop devices automatically turn off overnight. This technology will also provide us with monitoring and reporting capabilities. The project is expected to implement this financial year and will cover the majority of the IT estate.

Departmental ICT

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value of her Department's computer systems *(a)* was at the time of purchase and *(b)* is now. [214714]

Mr. Woolas: This response refers only to systems managed by Home Office IT Shared Services.

Under the PFI contracts, the Department does not "purchase" computer systems. For the main POISE and INDIGO systems, they have a nominal asset value of £1 each.

Information on UKBA system assets (excluding POISE and INDIGO) are shown here, as at 1 April 2008.

System name	*Asset value (as at 1 April 2008) (£000)*
IAFS	6,860
Warnings Index	317
ASYS	409
Mycroft	477

Initial purchase values for the above systems are not available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department's IT *(a)* systems and *(b)* services conform to the ISO 27001 standard. [216055]

Mr. Woolas: Nearly all in-service IT systems and managed services within Home Office IT Shared Services are designed and constructed to take full account of the Department's policies and procedures for information security management which have been confirmed to be fully compliant with the controls in ISO 27001. As part of the normal departmental review of procedures, these are continually checked against existing and new controls contained in ISO 27001.

The Home Office's priority is to conform to the new standards as laid out in the data handling report by the Cabinet Secretary published on 25 June 2008. The new standards build on recognised good practice and international standards for information security such as ISO 27001 and are tailored to the particular circumstances of UK central Government.

Work is under way to address the very few non-conformant systems.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of her Department's staff have access to the Department's IT infrastructure at home. [216376]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office does not monitor the number of people who access IT systems from home. We provide for remote access through mobile working but we cannot state where these are used (home or office). The decision on whether or not people work from home is one for line managers and business units.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many civil servants in her Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229097]

Mr. Woolas: The following table gives a breakdown of secondments from the Home Office to trade unions for each year since 2003. The table reflects formal secondments out of the Home Office.

No Home Office staff were seconded to the Trades Union Congress during the period for which data have been requested.

Civil servants seconded from the Home Office to work for trade unions, 2003 to 2008

	Home Office HQ	*UK Border Agency*	*Identity and Passport Service*	*HM Prison Service*	*Criminal Records Bureau*
2003	0	0	1	Not available	0
2004	0	0	1	Not available	0
2005	1	0	1	Not available	0
2006	0	0	2	Not available	0
2007	0	1	1	Not available	0
2008	0	1	1	N/A – part of MoJ	0

Foreign Workers: Care Homes

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors were considered by the Migrant Advisory Committee when making its recommendation that NVQ Level three qualified staff from outside the European Union in care homes should be paid a minimum of £8.50 per hour. [230852]

Mr. Woolas: The methodology used by the Migration Advisory Committee, when making the recommendation that skilled senior care workers should be regarded as skilled only if they are paid at least £8.80 per hour, is fully set out in its September 2008 report "Skilled, Shortage, Sensible: The Recommended Shortage Occupation Lists for Scotland and the UK". A copy has been placed in the House Library.

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the recommendation of the Migrant Advisory Committee that NVQ Level 3 qualified staff from outside the European Union in care homes should be paid a minimum of £8.50 per hour; and if she will make a statement. [230870]

Mr. Woolas: The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) was asked to provide independent, transparent and evidence-based advice to the Government on where skilled labour market shortages exist that can sensibly be filled by migration.

The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) included senior care workers with a formal qualification at National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 3 in Scotland or Wales, or paid an hourly salary of at least £8.80 on their recommended shortage occupation list.

Government have given careful consideration to the report and advice, and will decide whether to accept their recommendations or not, before publishing our shortage occupation list ahead of the launch of tier 2 of the points-based system in November.

Immigration

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will break down by nationality the asylum applicants dealt with under the legacy exercise who have been *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused indefinite leave to remain. [194674]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2349W.

The requested information is not collated centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost through the examination of individual cases.

Immigration: English Language

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of spouses of each sex who entered the UK for settlement purposes in 2007 from *(a)* India, *(b)* Pakistan and *(c)* Bangladesh who did not have conversational English. [230086]

Mr. Woolas: The number of visas issued for entry as a spouse for settlement purposes in 2007 at our posts in India, Pakistan and Bangladesh were as follows:

	Number
India	4,379
Pakistan	11,033
Bangladesh	2,644

These figures include a small number who qualified for Indefinite Leave to Enter (ILE), as follows:

	Number
India	44
Pakistan	16
Bangladesh	9

The remainder would have been admitted for an initial period of two years, at the end of which they may apply for Indefinite Leave to Remain (ILR).

Since 2 April 2007, anyone applying for ILE or ILR has had to show, among other things, that they have a sufficient knowledge of the English language and of life in the UK. It is not possible to determine from our records how many of the above applicants who were granted *(a)* limited leave to enter, or *(b)* ILE before 2 April 2007, did not have conversational English.

Lancashire Constabulary: Special Constables

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in Lancashire Constabulary in each year since 2004, broken down by police division. [230088]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table.

Special constable strength[1, 2] Lancashire

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Lancashire Central	31	39	48	70	85
Lancashire Eastern	60	48	58	55	50
Lancashire Northern	49	43	51	48	47
Lancashire Southern	86	83	92	89	80
Lancashire Western	38	42	47	51	62
Pennine	62	60	67	63	66
Central services	10	4	3	3	3
Total	326	315	363	376	390

[1] Figures given as headcount values. [2] Figures correct as at 31 March in each given year.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she intends to respond to the letter to her dated 8th September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Ms Linda James. [231190]

Jacqui Smith: I replied to my right hon. Friend for Manchester, Gorton on 30 October 2008.

Metropolitan Police: Special Constables

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many special constables there were in the Metropolitan Police Authority area in each year since 2004, broken down by police division; and how many special constables there were in *(a)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in each year. [231712]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table.

Police service strength data are not available by London borough or constituency, and are collected at the police force and Basic Command Unit (BCU) levels only. Within the Metropolitan Police Service area however, the boundaries for boroughs and BCUs are coterminous.

Special Constables (headcount)[1] in the Metropolitan Police service by Basic Command unit as at 31 March 2004 to 31 March 2008

	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Barking and Dagenham	14	10	21	28	53
Barnet	38	35	73	94	124
Bexley	74	81	103	101	89
Brent	29	27	29	19	43
Bromley	12	10	24	47	78
Camden	28	22	52	78	134
Central Services	18	26	35	114	162
City of Westminster	85	81	166	251	256
Croydon	17	14	20	36	67
Ealing	21	14	24	37	78
Enfield	20	17	23	30	64
Greenwich	17	7	42	44	75
Hackney	12	9	19	25	42
Hammersmith and Fulham	20	19	44	58	72
Haringey	13	14	27	43	46
Harrow	13	10	22	52	71
Havering	29	33	41	52	80
Heathrow	7	12	16	17	17
Hillingdon	15	15	22	38	64
Hounslow	18	15	23	21	35
Islington	39	35	32	40	73
Kensington and Chelsea	14	20	37	51	134
Kingston upon Thames	15	13	32	40	63
Lambeth	20	20	35	42	58
Lewisham	13	9	33	42	45
Merton	17	17	21	19	33
Newham	16	15	23	42	66
Redbridge	17	16	34	54	86
Richmond upon Thames	19	17	25	36	43
Southwark	18	9	25	36	52
Sutton	6	4	11	25	29
Tower Hamlets	17	20	34	36	54
Waltham Forest	16	10	19	25	29
Wandsworth	15	21	34	68	95
Metropolitan Police Service	742	697	1,221	1,741	2,510

[1] Special constable figures are given as headcount measures.

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much has been spent by her Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230614]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office spend on Plain English Campaign training courses for the financial years 2005-06 to 2007-08 is as follows.

	£
2005-06	20,890.32
2006-07	5,896.03
2007-08	1,527.50

The Home Office holds corporate membership of the Plain English Campaign. It promotes the use of plain English in all replies sent from the Department, and is committed to the use of plain English.

Police: Dorset

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many front line police officers there were in Bournemouth and Poole in each of the last 10 years. [231658]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The number of officers and police staff and their deployment to operational and non-operational activities is a matter for the Chief Constable. The following table sets out the number of police officers in the Bournemouth and Poole basic command units for each year since data was first collected.

Bournemouth and Poole Basic Command Units[1]

As at 31 March each year	*Bournemouth*	*Poole*
2002	296	183
2003	318	180
2004	322	186
2005	317	187
2006	319	176
2007	315	215
2008	317	190

[1] All figures are full-time equivalent strength.

Police: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police officers per 1,000 individuals there were in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last 10 years. [229992]

Mr. Coaker: Information for Sussex police strength along with basic command unit (BCU) data are provided in the following table. Eastbourne currently falls within the East Sussex Division. Before 2006, it was part of the East Downs Division. Police personnel data are not available by parliamentary constituency. No BCU data are available prior to 2002-03.

	1999[1]	*2000*[1]	*2001*[1]	*2002*[1]	*2003*[1, 3]	*2004*[1, 3]	*2005*[1, 3]	*2006*[1, 3]	*2007*[1, 3]	*2008*[1, 3]
Sussex police force										
Police officer strength (FTE)[2,3]	2,847	2,822	2,855	2,893	2,989	3,039	3,044	3,092	3,077	3,032
Police officers per 1,000 population[2, 4]	1.91	1.88	1.88	1.90	2.03	2.06	2.05	2.07	2.05	2.01
East Downs BCU										
Police officer strength (FTE)[2, 4]	—	—	—	—	351	375	380	378	—	—
Police officers per 1,000 population[2, 4]	—	—	—	—	1.44	1.17	1.18	1.17	—	—
East Sussex BCU										
Police officer strength (FTE)[2, 4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	696	695
Police officers per 1,000 population[2, 4]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1.4	1.37

[1] Figures as at 31 March in each year provided.

[2] This and other tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[3] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

[4] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

Police: Finance

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* police constables and *(b)* police community support officers in (i) England and (ii) Avon and Somerset Constabulary will be funded by her Department for each year of the 2007 to 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review period; and how much has been set aside for this purpose for each such year. [231453]

Mr. Coaker: The following table sets out the number of constables and police community support officers in England and the Avon and Somerset constabulary for March 2007 and 2008. It is not possible to identify what proportion of constables are, or will be funded by the Home Office during the CSR period as the cost of policing is jointly met through police grant from the Home Office, revenue support grant from the DCLG and the police authority precept on the council tax. Decisions on the number of officers at each rank are an operational matter for the chief constable.

In December 2006, in response to requests from Association of Chief Police Officers and the Association of Police Authorities, my predecessor agreed to relax the controls over officer numbers imposed by the Crime Fighting Fund (CFF). As a result of this relaxation, chief constables are able to use the CFF funding where it is most needed, rather than solely to fund police officer posts. This flexibility has given the service the freedom they asked for to employ staff instead of officers in back office and support roles, allowing officers to concentrate on core policing functions.

CFF payments total £274.3 million for England, including £1.422 million for the Avon and Somerset constabulary. As many forces are now taking advantage of the new CFF flexibilities it is not possible to identify how many constable posts continue to be funded through the CFF.

In the case of police community support officers specific grant funding for neighbourhood policing includes a contribution towards the cost of maintaining PCSOs in England. Home Office funding in 2008-09 for neighbourhood policing, including PCSOs, is £310 million, including £7 million for Avon and Somerset to continue implementing neighbourhood policing and to help support the cost of their PCSOs. The Government have announced that this funding will be uprated in each year of the comprehensive spending review period in line with inflation.

Police constables and police community support officers England and Avon and Somerset constabulary[1]

	31 March 2007	*31 March 2008*
Constables		
England	103,724	103,374
Avon and Somerset	2,658	2,639
Police community support officers		
England	12,856	15,107
Avon and Somerset	302	377

[1] All figures are full-time equivalent strength

Police: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many *(a)* police officers and *(b)* police officers per 1,000 individuals there were in Hemel Hempstead constituency in each of the last 10 years; [231101]

(2) how many police officers there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in (i) 1997 and (ii) the latest period for which figures are available. [231103]

Mr. Coaker: Information for Hertfordshire constabulary at the police force and basic command unit (BCU) level is provided in the following tables. Hemel Hempstead falls within the western division BCU. Police personnel data are not available by parliamentary constituency. BCU data are not available prior to 2002-03.

Police officer strength[1,2] *and officers per 100,000 population for Hertfordshire police force*

As at 31 March each year	*Police officer strength*	*Officers per 100,000 population*
1997	1,759	205
1998	1,740	202
1999	1,724	198
2000	1,767	201
2001	1,922	184
2002	1,825	174
2003	1,957	191
2004	2,086	204
2005	2,104	206
2006	2,126	208
2007	2,159	210
2008	2,137	204

[1] These tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Comparable strength (excludes those on career breaks, or maternity/paternity leave). The Police Numbers Task Force (2001) recommended that a clear presentation was made of the numbers of staff employed by police forces including those seconded into the force and those on any type of long or short-term absence. These new calculations were first used in 2003, and are not comparable with data prior to March 2003. The data from 2003 onwards used here are termed comparable because they have been calculated on the old basis to allow comparison.

Police officer strength[1,2] *and officers par 100,000 population for Hertfordshire western basic command unit*

As at 31 March each year	*Police officer strength*	*Officers per 100,000 population*
2003	504	168
2004	552	183
2005	547	182
2006	516	171
2007	505	167
2008	494	163

[1] These tables contain full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

[2] Data collected from 2002-03 onwards.

Police: Translation Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much police forces spent on interpretation and translation in Hertfordshire in each of the last five years. [231909]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 686W.

Police: Uxbridge

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers were based in Uxbridge constituency in each of the last 10 years. [231807]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table, and relate to the Hillingdon Basic Command Unit.

Police service strength data are not available by constituency, and are collected at the police force and Basic Command Unit (BCU) levels only. BCU level data have been centrally collected from 2002-03 onwards.

Police officers (FTE)[1] *in the Hillingdon Basic Command Unit of the Metropolitan Police 2003-08*

	As at 31 March each year					
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hillingdon	458	484	498	506	495	514

[1] These figures are based on full-time equivalents that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Due to rounding there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of constituent items. Figures include those officers on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.

UK Border Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost to the public purse of the UK Border Agency and its predecessor was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228627]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the answer I gave my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 273W.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for displaying a Union Flag or national flag of a UK country on their vehicle number plate in each of the last five years. [232312]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Information collected centrally on the court proceedings database held by my Department does not separately identify offences involving the use or display of flags or symbols on vehicle number plates.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she will answer question 180227 on the legacy casework programme tabled on 16 January 2008 by the hon. Member for Cardiff Central; and if she will make a statement. [192953]

Mr. Woolas: My predecessor replied to the hon. Member on 1 September 2008, *Official Report,* column 1520W.

TRANSPORT

A12: Road Traffic

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the daily average number of vehicles using the A12 in Essex in each of the last 10 years. [233140]

Paul Clark: The annual average daily flow (AADF) for the A12 in Essex for each year from 1998 to 2007 is shown in the following table. The AADFs are rounded to the nearest 100 vehicles.

	AADF, all motor vehicles
1998	57,300
1999	57,800
2000	56,200
2001	59,100
2002	60,800
2003	61,500
2004	62,000
2005	60,300
2006	62,900
2007	61,700

AADF data are currently available from our website:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix/

for 1999-2007.

A14: Road Traffic

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the most recent traffic flow data for each section of the A14 are. [232629]

Paul Clark: The Annual Average Daily Flow (AADF) data are shown in the table for every link of the A14. These links correspond to sections of the A14 between major junctions. The AADF data are rounded to the nearest 100 vehicles.

Start junction	*End junction*	*AADF, all motor vehicles*
M1 westbound slip	M1	18,900
M1	LA Boundary	41,500
LA boundary	A5199	47,000
A5199	A508	48,900
A508	A6(T)	47,700
A6	A43/A4300	70,000
A43/A4300	A43/A6013	78,500
A43/A6013	A509	71,300
A509	A6/A6003	56,700
A6/A6003	A510 to Finedon	42,500
A510	A6116 near Twywell	45,000
A6116 near Twywell	A45(T)	45,600
A45(T)	LA Boundary	42,600
LA boundary	A1	39,300
A1	A14/A141	46,500
A141 Huntingdon	A1M feeder road Little Stukely	32,500
A141	A1198	55,800
A1198	A1096	67,200
A1096	A14	71,100
B1050	Dry Drayton Road/ Oakington Road	93,600
Dry Drayton Road/ Oakington Road	M11	92,700
M11	A1307	48,200
A1307	A14	9,600
A14 merge	B1049	63,500
B1049	A14	60,000
A10	B1047	60,900
B1047	A1303	46,300
A1303	A1303	42,400
A1303 spur	A14 merge	40,800
A14 split	LA boundary	59,600
LA boundary	A142	59,600
A142	LA boundary	61,000
LA boundary	A11/A1304	61,000
A14 west slip	A14 east slip	47,100
A11	LA boundary	33,100
LA boundary	B1506	33,100
LA boundary	B1106 Westley Road	40,200
B1106 Westley Road	A143 Compeigne Way	40,200
A14/A143	A134 at flyover	44,800
A134	A1088	39,500
A1088	A1308	33,900
A1308	A1120	33,500
A1120	A140	36,500
A140	B113	47,400
B1113 Bramford Road	A140 South of Kettle Lane	57,700
A14	A14	57,700
A1156 slip over-bridge	Southbound on slip from A1156	50,500
A12/A1214 roundabout	Sproughton Road	46,200
Sproughton Road	A1156	50,500
	A137	49,900
A137	A1189	52,400
A1189	A12	44,200
A12	Kirton Road, Trimley St Martin junction	26,700
Kirton Road, Trimley St Martin junction	A154F	30,900
A154 Trinity Road	A154 Candlet Road roundabout	18,000
A154 in-feed	Dock Road	7,000
A428/M11	A14 merge	22,[illegible]00

Start junction	*End junction*	*AADF, all motor vehicles*
A14 main route	A11	27,500
A1088	A14 main route	2,300
A14	Sproughton Road	5,000
A14	Sproughton Road	6,200

AADF data are currently available from our website:

www.dft.gov.uk/matrix/

for 1999-2007.

A14: Suffolk

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997; and how many involved drivers under the age of 21 years in each case; [232628]

(2) how many road traffic *(a)* accidents and *(b)* fatalities there were on the A14 in Suffolk in each year since 1997. [232630]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Number of reported personal injury road accidents and fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk, 1997 to 2007

	(a) Accidents	*(b) Fatalities*
1997	128	7
1998	123	2
1999	122	8
2000	138	8
2001	138	10
2002	157	5
2003	128	3
2004	143	5
2005	150	4
2006	119	6
2007	126	6

Number of reported personal injury road accidents involving drivers under the age of 21 and resulting fatalities on the A14 in Suffolk, 1997 to 2007

	(a) Accidents	*(b) Fatalities*
1997	21	1
1998	26	1
1999	21	1
2000	22	0
2001	26	1
2002	27	1
2003	29	0
2004	28	0
2005	28	0
2006	28	0
2007	19	3

Commuters

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has conducted research on the average journey time to and from work in the last 10 years. [231554]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State to the hon. Member on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 418W.

Departmental Meetings

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's policy is on taking notes of *(a)* internal departmental meetings and *(b)* meetings with third parties; and if he will make a statement. [227795]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* Key decisions arising from internal meetings are noted. Minutes are taken of meetings between Ministers and external stakeholders.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228743]

Mr. Hoon: The Central Department and its agencies recruited the following numbers of people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years during the 2007-08 financial year:

2007-08		
	Number recruited	*Percentage of total recruited*
Number recruited between age 55.00-59.99	79	3.50
Number recruited over the age of 60.00	62	2.75
Total number recruited in period	2,258	—

This represents all recruited employees within the period including permanent, temporary and contract employees.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps he is taking to reduce the gender pay gap in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. [232607]

Mr. Hoon: The Department and its Agencies, which includes the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency, comply fully with the Gender Equality Duty under section 76A of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, and remain committed to eliminating discrimination and promoting equality of opportunity between men and women. When preparing the Gender Equality Schemes, as required under the Act, specific consideration was given to the steps necessary to address the causes of any gender pay gaps.

Delegated pay bargaining was introduced as an important means by which Agencies could improve their efficiency and service delivery. They were expected to deliver pay systems which were matched closely to the needs of their particular business and which made strong links between pay and performance in delivering high quality services.

It remains the Department's position that pay reviews will continue to be undertaken by DfT (Central) and each individual Agency, through their delegated authority, to ensure that no disparity exists between male and female workers.

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the capital value of each private finance initiative scheme overseen by his Department which has reached financial close is; over what period repayment will take place; and what the total cost of repayment for each scheme will be. [232021]

Mr. Hoon: The capital value, contract length and total cost of repayment for every signed PFI project are recorded centrally on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/ppp_pfi_stats.htm

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vacant posts in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230602]

Mr. Hoon: The information requested for the central Department and its agencies is set out in the following table:

	Posts	*Cost (£)*
2005-06	2,096	1,417,321
2006-07	1,477	1,444,869
2007-08	1,569	1,956,649

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230489]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies spent the following on external training courses in each of the last four financial years:

	£
2004-05	[1]6,314,243
2005-06	6,236,735
2006-07	6,424,582
2007-08	6,382,917

[1] MCA could not provide a figure for this period.

The Driving Standards Agency could not provide this information, neither can a comprehensive list of the external training providers be provided without disproportionate cost.

DfT Rail: Secondment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of train operating companies have been seconded to work in DfT Rail over the last three years. [232639]

Mr. Hoon: One person from a train operating company has been identified as seconded to work in DfT Rail over the last three years.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what measures have been put into place to ensure that staff seconded from train operating companies to DfT Rail learn no information of possible commercial use for their companies. [232640]

Mr. Hoon: The letter of appointment for staff seconded into DfT Rail makes clear that they are subject to a duty of confidentiality and loyal service to the crown which requires them to exercise care in the use of information they acquire in the course of their official duties and to protect information which is held in confidence. They are also advised that they are subject to the Official Secrets Act 1989.

Driving Tests: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Driving Standards Agency on progress in establishing a multipurpose training centre in Pembrokeshire; [231321]

(2) what timetable has been set for the establishment of a multipurpose training centre in Pembrokeshire; [231322]

(3) how many sites in Pembrokeshire have been assessed by the Driving Standards Agency as potential locations for a multipurpose training centre. [231320]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 October 2008]*: The Driving Standards Agency (DSA) has assessed six sites for a multi purpose test centre (MPTC) location in the search area around Haverfordwest in Pembrokeshire.

One site, brought to DSA's attention by Pembrokeshire county council, was confirmed as being suitable. The site is council-owned and Agency staff held positive discussions with council officials regarding its use for motorcycle testing. However, the planning application submitted by DSA was later turned down by the council as was a subsequent appeal against the decision. Because of the problems encountered in finding a suitable location it has not been possible to set a timetable for establishing a MPTC in Pembroke. There is insufficient time to locate a suitable site for a MPTC, obtain planning permission and construct it in Pembroke before the target implementation date for the new practical motorcycle test at the end of March 2009.

DSA is therefore looking for and assessing other sites which could be used part-time to deliver the off-road manoeuvres exercise. Sites under consideration include sports stadiums, docks, car parks and showgrounds. So far two potential sites have been identified in Pembrokeshire and these are being further assessed. DSA also wrote to Pembrokeshire county council on 22 October seeking assistance to locate such suitable sites.

There have been no specific discussions relating to Pembrokeshire but the Secretary of State for Transport has been fully briefed and is aware of the current situation relating to the progress in the development of the network of multi purpose test centres.

Ferries: Lymington

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on plans by Wightlink for new ferries between Lymington and Yarmouth; what role his Department will have in determining the required permissions for the new ferries to enter service; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the financial interests of each of the Lymington harbour commissioners. [232511]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have had no discussions with colleagues about this matter. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency is responsible for issuing a passenger safety certificate for the Wightlink ferry and the Department has no other role in respect of any further permissions required. We do not hold information about the financial interests of the Lymington harbour commissioners.

First Great Western: Complaints

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many complaints his Department received about First Great Western in *(a)* January to March, *(b)* April to June and *(c)* July to September 2008. [231464]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not have a statutory role in dealing with complaints against individual train operators. Accordingly, its register of correspondence reviewed does not explicitly identify which of the communications received about First Great Western are complaints.

Government Departments: Official Cars

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many cars the Government *(a)* owns and *(b)* operates, broken down by Department; and how many of them are British-built. [230422]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport does not hold information on other Departments' vehicle fleets.

Information in respect of the cars owned and leased by the Department for Transport is provided in the following table.

	Number of cars owned	*Number of cars leased*	*Number of British built cars*
Central Department			
DFT HQ	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Air Accidents Investigation Branch	0	7	0
Marine Accident Investigation Branch	0	1	0
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	0	38	[2]—
Driving Standards Agency	30	0	[2]—
Government Car and Despatch Agency	233	1	42
Highways Agency	0	196	56
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	404	0	45
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	238	0	[2]—
Vehicle Certification Agency	3	0	0

[1] Included in GCDA

[2] Not recorded

First Great Western Trains: Rolling Stock

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to accept First Great Western's proposed bid for 11 new four carriage trains on the Cardiff to Portsmouth route. [231197]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport is in the early stages of discussions with First Great Western on plans to implement capacity increases to which the Government committed in their High Level Output Statement of July 2007.

The Department's rolling stock plan of January 2008 stated that 52 additional Diesel Multiple Unit vehicles would be allocated to the First Great Western Franchise covering the Thames Valley and the Bristol area, and that the latter would receive vehicles transferred from London Midland. It noted, however, that these plans were not prescriptive and were subject to a development process within the industry.

Heathrow Airport

Susan Kramer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process his Department will follow following the Government's announcement on the capacity of Heathrow Airport in the event that BAA seek permission to *(a)* introduce mixed-mode within the 480,000 cap and *(b)* introduce mixed-mode and exceed the existing 480,000 cap. [230839]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation closed on 27 February and we expect to announce a decision on the future development of Heathrow by the end of the year.

If mixed mode operations are supported (either within the current movements cap or with additional movements), it would be for the airport operator to bring forward plans and obtain the necessary planning approvals. The Government would maintain a close interest in this but the nature and timing of any planning applications would be a commercial matter for the airport operator.

Humber Bridge: Finance

David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments have been made under the Appropriation Acts to cover unmet interest payments on the Humber Bridge debt in each year since 1982; and what other steps have been taken by the Government to cover the cost of Humber Bridge debt in each of those years. [231622]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: Any payments made under Appropriation Acts will be shown in the Supply Estimates voted by Parliament. These are available from the Library of the House. Section 16.3 (Humber Bridge Loan) of the Department for Transport's accounts 2006-07 is also relevant and a copy of the relevant section has been placed in the House Library and is also in the public domain.

Invalid Vehicles: Accidents

Mr. Newmark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people were injured in accidents on roads or pavements involving motorised mobility aids in *(a)* Braintree constituency, *(b)* Essex and *(c)* England in each of the last 10 years. [232282]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is not available.

M6: Accidents

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents between junction 20 and junction 6 of the M6 in each of the last five years resulted in *(a)* fatalities, *(b)* serious injuries and *(c)* other outcomes; and how many accidents in each category involved (i) UK-registered lorries and (ii) foreign-registered lorries. [230819]

Paul Clark: The numbers of road traffic accidents for both northbound and southbound carriageways of the M6 between Junctions 6 and 20 for each of the last five years are given in the following table. Also shown is the number of these accidents that involved a heavy goods vehicle (HGV). Separate figures for foreign registered HGVs were not recorded prior to 2005. A single accident may involve more than one HGV.

	Measure	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
2003	Accidents on the M6, between	14	40	485	539
	Junctions 6 and 20 Accidents involving a HGV	7	17	182	206
2004	Accidents on the M6, between	6	32	557	595
	Junctions 6 and 20 Accidents involving a HGV	5	13	223	241
2005	Accidents on the M6, between Junctions 6 and 20	8	37	461	506
	Accidents involving a HGV	3	20	177	200
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - UK Reg.	3	16	116	135
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - Foreign	0	5	66	71
2006	Accidents on the M6, between Junctions 6 and 20	13	42	407	462
	Accidents involving a HGV	7	14	156	177
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - UK Reg.	6	12	102	120
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - Foreign	2	6	55	63
2007	Accidents on the M6, between Junctions 6 and 20	6	37	409	452
	Accidents involving a HGV	3	18	152	173
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - UK Reg.	3	16	101	120
	Number of HGVs involved in accidents - Foreign	1	4	57	62

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* serious and *(b)* fatal accidents there were on the M6 through North Staffordshire in each of the last two years; how many accidents there were in total in each category on motorways in England, broken down by region; and if he will make an assessment of the safety of the M6 in North Staffordshire in comparison with equivalent roads elsewhere. [230241]

Paul Clark: For motorways, the Highways Agency records personal injury accident data on a 'motorway junction to motorway junction' basis.

The following table details the number of serious and fatal accidents that occurred in each of the last two years, between Junction 14 of the M6 Motorway in north Staffordshire and Junction 18 in south Cheshire.

Severity of accident	*2006*	*2007*
Serious	10	12
Fatal	4	3
Total	14	15

The following table details the number of serious and fatal accidents that occurred in each of the last two years, split across the Agency's regional boundaries for the entire motorway network in England.

	Fatal			*Serious*		
Region	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
EM	3	5	8	12	25	37
NW	25	28	53	133	133	266
SE	41	35	76	230	252	482

	Fatal			*Serious*		
Region	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
SW	11	16	27	39	40	79
WM	27	18	45	108	96	204
YNE	20	10	30	86	83	169
E	19	21	40	99	102	201
Total	146	131	277	707	731	1,438

The national average personal injury accident rate for motorways in England for the last two years is 8.43 per hundred million vehicle kilometres. The corresponding accident rate for the M6 between Junctions 14 and 18 is 7.8 per hundred million vehicle kilometres, which is below the national average.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228550]

Mr. Hoon: Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies are required to publish and implement disability equality schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor, and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of their policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The Department for Transport has set out in its Disability Equality Scheme (2006-09) specific actions to meet its obligations under the Disability Equality Duty. The Department is currently reviewing its progress against these actions and intends to report publicly in 2009.

The public sector bodies sponsored by the Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

In line with the Disability Equality Duty, a report is published every three years to show: progress towards disability equality in my policy sector; and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public authorities within my policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on the recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with mental health condition, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report must be published by December 2008.

Motor Vehicles: Insurance

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made on the introduction of electronic motor insurance certificates; and if he will make a statement. [229586]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The issue is being dealt with urgently and we intend to have regulations in place next spring.

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many foreign-registered motor vehicles are estimated to be in the United Kingdom. [229124]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is estimated that, in 2007, 0.5 per cent. of traffic in Great Britain was accounted for by foreign registered vehicles.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the number of people driving without a licence *(a)* in London and *(b)* nationally. [231217]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The most recent estimate is that 1.6 per cent. of all drivers use a motor vehicle on the road without a valid driving licence. This figure was published in a joint DfT/DEFRA/ACPO report, Roads Policing Operation V79—National Driver and Vehicle Compliance Check. The report, published on 8 September 2006, was placed in the House of Commons Library and is also available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/vehicles/roadspolicingoperationv79/

This is a national figure and there are no regional figures.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231123]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport publishes guidance for staff on writing in plain English. The number of documents formally submitted to the Plain English Campaign (PEC) for approval for Crystal Mark status since 2005 is given in the following table.

	Department/agency	*Submitted to PEC*	*Achieving Crystal Mark*
2005	DFT central	6	6
	Highways Agency	64	64
2006	DFT central	6	6
	Highways Agency	62	62
	DVLA	1	1

	Department/agency	*Submitted to PEC*	*Achieving Crystal Mark*
2007	DFT central	6	6
	Highways Agency	63	63
	DVLA	116	52
2008	DFT central	4	4
	Highways Agency	45	45
	DVLA	80	25

Railways: EU Law

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 423W, on railways: EU law, what recent correspondence he has received from the European Commission on implementation of the First Railway Package; and if he will make a statement. [232428]

Paul Clark: The UK received a letter of formal notice dated 26 June 2008 for alleged non-conformity with the First Railway Package from the European Commission. In our reply to the Commission of 8 August 2008, the Government stated their belief that our procedures are fully consistent with Directive 2001/14/EC.

We are awaiting a response from the Commission to the UK's letter of 8 August 2008.

Railways: Fares

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average change in rail fares was in each year since 1997. [232026]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However the Office of Rail Regulation tracks fares nationally and publishes these by sector and whether fares are regulated or unregulated. This is available from the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average price of a peak rail fare from London to *(a)* Birmingham, *(b)* Manchester, *(c)* Newcastle, *(d)* Cardiff and *(e)* Glasgow was in each year since 1997. [232028]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold this information. However, the Office of Rail Regulation tracks fares nationally and publishes these by sector (long distance, South East and Regional) and by whether fares are regulated or unregulated. This is available from the ORR website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Railways: Scotland

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has met representatives of the Scottish Executive since his appointment to discuss high speed rail. [232743]

Paul Clark: To date, the Secretary of State has not met representatives of the Scottish Government to discuss high speed rail.

Railways: South West

John Penrose: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* new carriages and *(b)* additional trains there will be in the South West under the Government's proposed rolling stock strategy. [231201]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport's rolling stock plan of January 2008 stated that 52 additional Diesel Multiple Unit (DMU) vehicles would be allocated to the First Great Western Franchise covering the Thames Valley and the Bristol area, the latter to receive vehicles transferred from London Midland. It noted that these plans were not prescriptive and were subject to a development process within the industry. Discussions with First Great Western are still at an early stage.

Rescue Services: Hope Cove

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Hope Cove lifeboat is to be taken out of service on 2 November; for what reasons there was no local consultation with Marlborough parish council and others prior to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's decision to take the boats out of service; and if he will instruct the agency to defer decommissioning the boat until such local consultation has taken place. [231285]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* In the interest of the safety of the volunteer Coastguard Rescue Officer crew and those they could be called upon to rescue, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency boat at Hope Cove has been available only for use under strict operational limits. Now, with the onset of the autumn season and the associated weather conditions and sea states, although the boat will remain in Hope Cove, it is unlikely that it would be able to operate in compliance with those limits over the next few months.

No decision has been taken about the future of the boat, and none will be taken, until there has been a local consultation with interested parties including Marlborough parish council.

Rescue Services: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what role his Department has in the co-ordination of volunteer *(a)* sea and *(b)* mountain search and rescue operations; how many such organisations are affected by his Department's co-ordination; and if he will make a statement; [230022]

(2) whether his Department records the number of *(a)* sea and *(b)* mountain search and rescue operations undertaken by volunteer organisations across the UK. [230443]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Responsibility for civil aeronautical and maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) policy rests with the Department for Transport. The Maritime and Coastguard Agency provides a response and co-ordination service for maritime SAR, counter pollution and salvage. This includes the mobilisation, organisation and tasking of adequate resources, including volunteers, to an incident.

In respect of volunteer organisations co-ordinated, the MCA can call upon 3,500 Voluntary Coastguard Rescue Officers (comprising 390 Teams) and the Royal National Lifeboat Institution has 4,500 lifeboat crew and 4,000 shore side staff at over 230 lifeboat stations. In addition, there are a number of small local organisations who are part of the declared facility system that can also be utilised.

While the MCA records information on the assets it tasks in any civil maritime search and rescue incident, it does not allow for easy retrieval of statistical information on the organisations involved.

The Police Service, through its command infrastructure, co-ordinates land based SAR operations. Voluntary inland Search and Rescue organisations including the mountain rescue volunteers are formed to provide SAR services on land. Operationally, each team is responsible to, and works under the aegis of a co-ordinating authority. This will normally be the police, who collate their own statistical records.

Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989 to take account of technological developments; and if he will make a statement. [232756]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Road Vehicles Lighting Regulations 1989, Statutory Instrument 1989/1796, is the base set of road vehicle fighting requirements.

The SI is reviewed from time to time in the light of technological and other developments, and amendments are made as necessary. A review has recently taken place and public consultation on a series of amendments, including for example new requirements regarding the fitment of retro-reflective material, concluded on 9 October. We aim to have the revised Regulations in place by 10 October 2009.

Tintwistle Hollingworth and Mottram Bypass

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what instructions have been given to *(a)* the North West Leaders' Forum and *(b)* the Highways Agency on capping costs on the Mottram-Tintwistle bypass at £270m; and what other road schemes have been similarly capped in the last 12 months. [232464]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency has not been instructed to cap the costs of the A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle Bypass scheme or any other road schemes in the last 12 months. In July 2008, the Secretary of State published new cost estimates for the Highways Agency major schemes and the range estimate for this scheme was stated to be between £223 million and £315 million, which gives a central estimate of £270 million.

This scheme, which is designated as a regional scheme, was prioritised by the North West region in the 2006 Regional Funding Allocation process. Earlier this year, all regions were asked to review the prioritisation and affordability of their schemes and to submit their advice in early 2009 and I look forward to receiving that advice.

DEFENCE

Atomic Weapons Establishment

11. **Jeremy Corbyn:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much capital spending was drawn down at the Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston in each of the last three years; and how much is planned to be drawn down in 2008-09. [232057]

Mr. Quentin Davies: AWE has incurred capital expenditure of £171 million in 2005-06, £302 million in 2006-07 and £500 million in 2007-08.

For 2008-09, the capital expenditure currently planned is £384 million.

Defence Training

12. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of defence training contracts; and if he will make a statement. [232059]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: MOD lets a large number of contracts across training sites. It undertakes regular value-for-money analysis of contracts as a matter of routine.

Afghanistan

13. **Andrew Selous:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [232060]

Mr. Hutton: Afghanistan continues to present significant security challenges, particularly, in the south and east of the country where the Taliban continue to use intimidation and violence against the local population. In Helmand, progress has been made along the Helmand River valley and we are expanding control with the Afghan Security Forces taking an ever more active role.

16. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [232065]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for South-West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous).

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what limits have been placed on the number of parcels that can be sent to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan under the free parcels service; upon what basis these limits were established; and if he will make a statement. [232099]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No limits have been placed on the number of packages that can be sent to members of HM forces deployed to Afghanistan under the Families Free Mail Service.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the demand for the free parcel service to members of the armed forces serving in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [232108]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical evidence over the last decade has indicated that, where a mail service has operated with a limited free christmas service, the volume of mail to personnel on operations has been broadly 4kg of mail per person per month outside of a changeover period; increasing to 5kg per person per month during the changeover and 12kg per person per month over the Christmas period.

Since the introduction of the Enduring Families Free Mail Service in September 2007, however, the volumes of mail for both the steady state and the changeover periods have increased by 40 per cent. overall, but for Afghanistan it has increased by 100 per cent.

Astute Class Submarines

14. **Adam Afriyie:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Astute class submarines he plans to order; and if he will make a statement. [232061]

Mr. Quentin Davies: It remains our plan to order seven Astute submarines.

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to enable the design and build for the new Astute class submarines to allow for the retrofitting of conventional intercontinental ballistic missiles. [231703]

Mr. Hutton: The Astute class submarines are not physically large enough to accommodate intercontinental ballistic missiles, and therefore there is no possibility that they will be retrofitted.

Academy: Colchester

15. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the establishment in Colchester of an academy with military involvement for children of civilians. [232064]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As the hon. Member is aware, in England, schools and the education of children are the responsibilities of local authorities and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. However, as my predecessor made clear when he met the hon. Member in February this year, as an interested party Colchester Garrison continue to be kept informed by Essex county council on their plans for schools in the area.

Replacement Troops

17. **Patrick Mercer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is for replacing battle casualties in units on operations. [232066]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: When our forces suffer casualties in both Iraq and Afghanistan there is generally sufficient capacity within the size of force deployed for operations to be maintained.

Trained replacements can be requested and deployed forward from the United Kingdom as required.

Russia

18. **Mr. Dunne:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the military implications for NATO of recent developments in Russian security policy. [232067]

Mr. Hutton: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for North-West Cambridgeshire (Mr. Vara).

Maritime Reserves

19. **Mr. Brazier:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the next Commander Maritime Reserves will be a regular Royal Navy officer or a Royal Naval Reserve officer. [232068]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The next Commander Maritime Reserves will be a regular Royal Navy officer.

Iraq

20. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Iraq. [232069]

Mr. Hutton: The overall security situation in Iraq is much improved, with violence down to levels last seen in 2004. The transfer on 29 October of security responsibility for Wasit province to Provincial Iraqi Control demonstrates the continuing improvement in security across the country. 13 of Iraq's provinces have now been transferred to Iraqi control.

As the Defence Committee acknowledged in its report in July, the security situation in Basra has been transformed. I saw the dramatically improved security for myself when I visited Basra recently. The Iraqi security forces have complete freedom of movement, and I was able to meet Basrawis in a café in the centre of the city.

Iraq and Afghanistan

21. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many troops are serving in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [232070]

Mr. Hutton: As at 3 November 2008, the endorsed force levels for Southern Iraq and Afghanistan are around 4,100 and 8,000 respectively.

The precise number of personnel in theatre at any one time fluctuates on a daily basis for a variety of reasons, including mid-tour rest and recuperation, temporary absence for training, evacuation for medical reasons, the roulement of forces and other factors.

Gurkhas

22. **John Barrett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the role of the Gurkhas in the Army. [232071]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Gurkhas continue to provide a key element of the British Army, fulfilling a number of roles including infantry, engineers, signals and logistics. The role of the Gurkhas was last assessed as part of the Future Army Structure review in 2004. This work was further reviewed in 2005 and 2006 to bring the structure of the two Gurkha Infantry Battalions in line with the rest of the British Army.

Air Force

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will make a statement on the future strike capability of the Royal Air Force. [232058]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Romford (Andrew Rosindell).

Armed Forces: Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how *(a)* his Department's current alcohol strategy and *(b)* the forthcoming Joint Service Publication incorporating his Department's alcohol strategy is implemented or to be implemented by the (i) Army, (ii) Navy and (iii) Royal Air Force; and what distinction is made of the implementation in each of the armed forces. [231094]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's overall strategy, which will be consolidated in the forthcoming Joint Service Publication, is adapted by each service to meet its particular needs. All three services operate a comprehensive programme to prevent and, where necessary, deal with the harmful effects of alcohol misuse. These programmes include wide-ranging alcohol awareness and education, incorporating regular and mandatory briefs supported by a range of media such as posters, information booklets and DVDs. There are also regulations to limit the availability and consumption of alcohol, supported as necessary by the threat of disciplinary action. Medical treatment, welfare support, intervention and rehabilitation programmes operate for those where misuse of alcohol has become a concern or a serious problem.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated to inform his Department's forthcoming Joint Service Publication incorporating his Department's alcohol strategy. [231095]

Mr. Kevan Jones: There has been no research commissioned specifically to inform the forthcoming Joint Service Publication incorporating the Department's alcohol strategy. Such research as has been undertaken and evaluated formed part of wider health studies commissioned from the King's Centre for Military Health Research, particularly in regard to those who have served in conflict zones.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average waiting time for secondary healthcare of each specialty for service personnel was at the latest date for which information is available; and how many service personnel have been waiting more than 18 weeks for secondary healthcare of each specialty in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Wales. [192863]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 11 March 2008]:* Defence Medical Services (DMS) only monitor waiting times for service personnel treated at NHS hospitals hosting Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs)[1] and at the Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM)[2]. Treatment at these hospitals is carried out under the MOD's Accelerated Access scheme and accounts for approximately 60 per cent. of our secondary health care requirement. The remaining 40 per cent. of service personnel are treated at NHS hospitals around the UK and waiting times could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD measures the percentage of patients seen at hospitals that host MDHU's and RCDM within four week periods for their first outpatients appointment, and the percentage seen within six week periods as elective inpatients, as the following tables show. The latest figures available are for Quarter 3 2007-08 (September to December), broken down by the major specialities shown.

Percentage of patients seen within 4 week periods for first outpatients appointment

Speciality	*4 weeks*	*8 weeks*	*12 weeks*	*13+ weeks*	*Total number of outpatients*
General surgery	53	38	8	0	1,499
Orthopaedics	53	28	15	4	3,656
ENT	44	42	13	2	1,817
Oral surgery	65	27	8	1	1,311
Ophthalmology	52	25	16	8	764
General medicine	47	39	13	1	904

Percentage of patients measured by six week periods until becoming an elective inpatient

Speciality	*0-6 weeks*	*7-13 weeks*	*14-26 weeks*	*26+ weeks*	*Total number of inpatients*
General surgery	47	27	22	4	1,114
Orthopaedics	47	33	17	2	2,001
ENT	49	32	17	2	513
Oral surgery	73	21	6	0	964
Ophthalmology	43	44	10	3	146
General medicine	69	25	3	2	355

These figures are for England as there are presently no MDHUs in Scotland and Wales.

In the case of serious battle casualties, the preparations for their immediate treatment upon their return to the UK are made during their aeromedical evacuation.

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[1] Ministry of Defence Hospital Units (MDHUs) have been established within NHS hospitals at Derriford, Frimley Park, Peterborough, Portsmouth and Northallerton.

[2] The Royal Centre for Defence Medicine (RCDM) is located within the University Hospital Birmingham Foundation Trust (UHBFT).

Armed Forces: Housing

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to tackle the issue of empty service properties. [232063]

Mr. Kevan Jones: We have initiatives in place to reduce the number of empty service family accommodation properties. These include bringing forward decisions on the future use of sites. This will help to clarify the requirement for associated service family accommodation. We are also seeking to dispose of surplus properties more quickly.

At two sites, service family accommodation for which there is no medium-term requirement is being made available to the public on short-term leases.

With around 20,000 moves in the UK each year, there will always be a need for a management margin of empty properties to ensure that homes are available when service families need them.

Armed Forces: Intimidation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken in response to the recommendation of the Deepcut Review to issue to each recruit an induction booklet explaining procedures and sanctions relating to bullying and harassment. [232345]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: All recruits are given information on arrival including: what is expected of them and how they can be expected to be treated; definitions of bullying and harassment; and what to do if it is experienced; and contact details for sources of support and advice.

The Royal Navy issues the booklet 'Diversity, Equality and You', the Army issues the booklet 'The ARTD Code of Conduct and Behaviour for Recruits' and the RAF issues the booklet 'Combating Bullying and Harassment in the Royal Air Force'.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints by new recruits to the armed forces of bullying or harassment were *(a)* made, *(b)* upheld and *(c)* not upheld in 2007. [232346]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. When this work is complete I will write to my hon. Friend.

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what budget has been allocated to the armed forces for dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder *(a)* in conflict zones, *(b)* on leave and *(c)* on discharge from the forces in 2008-09. [225659]

Mr. Hutton: Funding for the treatment of mental health conditions, of which post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) is only one (and not the predominant) diagnosis, is provided from a number of budget areas within the Ministry of Defence.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, we deploy highly skilled and experienced uniformed mental health nurses to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for all our personnel. Funding for these personnel, and all associated treatment costs, are provided from overall operational budgets.

In the UK, the majority of treatment is provided on an out-patient basis, through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), and funding for these falls to the Single Service Commands. It is not possible to separate out costs from overall unit medical budgets.

In the relatively few cases where in-patient care is required, it is currently provided under external contract. In the last financial year (2007-08), the total contract costs were £3.87 million. Within this total figure, the costs of treating patients who were admitted with a primary working diagnosis of PTSD was £388,000. Note that PTSD can be caused by a range of circumstances and final diagnosis might differ from the initial assessment.

Once individuals are discharged from the armed forces, responsibility for their health care falls to the NHS—this has been the policy of successive Governments since 1948. There are three main exceptions. First, the Reserves Mental Health Programme (RMHP) provides a mental health assessment plus, if necessary, out-patient treatment at a DCMH, to any current or former member of the UK Volunteer and Regular Reserves who has been demobilised since 1 January 2003 following an overseas operational deployment as a reservist, and who believes that the deployment may have adversely affected their mental health. Medical staffs who provide these assessments and treatment do so as part of their overall duties and are not uniquely engaged on the RMHP; it is not therefore possible to provide an overall cost of the programme without incurring disproportionate cost.

Second, the Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' Hospital, London also offers help for veterans with mental health symptoms. Originally established in 1993 for veterans of the 1990-91 Gulf conflict, the MAP is now available for those with operational service from 1982 (including veterans of the Falklands campaign). Veterans who have recently deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan may also attend if their Service Medical Officer or General Practitioner thinks it would help. The total costs of this programme could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Finally, the MOD funds war pensioners undergoing treatment at the Ex-Services Mental Welfare Society ('Combat Stress') homes. MOD gave Combat Stress £2.5 million in individual fees in 2006-07 and agreed, in

October 2007, to a phased increase of 45 per cent. to reflect the build-up of staff and capability.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of former members of the armed forces diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [232096]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The healthcare of veterans is principally a matter for the national health service and the four UK health Departments, reflecting the need to provide expert care close to an individual's home and family. Information has not been collected on how many former members of the armed forces were diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder in each of the last five years. However, a sample survey on psychiatric morbidity is currently being carried out by the Office for National Statistics; this includes questions allowing identification of veterans, the time at which they served and whether any traumatic experience that may have caused their condition took place in service. This will allow a clearer understanding of the extent and nature of veterans' mental health problems. In addition, in 2003 we commissioned Kings College London to undertake a study of the health outcomes for some 20,000 personnel deployed to Iraq or in a non-deployed comparator group. This includes analysis of mental health outcomes which so far shows that generally there is not a higher incidence of mental health problems among those deployed though there were some specific areas of concern, notably among reservists; we have taken steps to address this by offering those with operational service since 2003 access to defence medical services where appropriate, for assessment and treatment.

We will continue to monitor carefully the research, which has now been extended to cover in addition personnel deployed to Afghanistan.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many parcels sent to members of the armed forces serving in operations abroad under the free parcel service were *(a)* delayed and *(b)* destroyed in the last period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [232098]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Between September 2007 and August 2008, BFPO customer services has recorded 234 cases where customers have reported lost/damaged/delayed mail under the Families Free Mail Service, against an assessed throughput of 7.2 million items of mail under this service.

Armed Forces: Security

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what representations he has received on the broadcast of the Undercover Soldier programme by the British Broadcasting Corporation; what measures are in place to control covert recording of *(a)* sensitive and *(b)* defence establishments; and if he will make a statement. [232095]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have received fewer than 10 representations since the broadcast of the Undercover Soldier programme by the British Broadcasting Corporation.

A range of measures are in place for the protective security of MOD establishments. These include perimeter and access control measures to prevent unauthorised access.

Departmental guidance instructs all MOD civilian and Service personnel (including recruits) on the risks and threats associated with image and audio recording and of the appropriate countermeasures. The use of any device to capture images is prohibited on MOD premises and, unless specifically authorised, privately owned mobile phones are not to be used to capture images of MOD information, equipments, personnel or activities.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the status is of the behavioural standards identified in the Defence Instructor Handbook; if he will introduce a code of practice throughout the training estate to ensure that breach of such standards is admissible in evidence in a charge of ill-treatment of subordinates; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the Defence Instructor Handbook. [230820]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The behavioural standards identified in the Defence Instructor Handbook as the Defence Code of Practice for Instructors are currently presented as a guide to prohibited practices between instructors and student and are applicable across the initial training environment. Failure to adhere to the code would be viewed as a professional failing which could be addressed through the application of appropriate administrative action or dealt with as a disciplinary matter. A breach of the code could be used as evidence to support a charge. I will place copies of the Handbook in the Library of the House.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps have been taken in response to recommendation 8 of the Blake review for a regular Army Training and Recruitment Agency audit of the physical and psychological environment of the training estate to be conducted. [232431]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army Recruiting and Training Division (ARTD), formerly the Army Training and Recruitment Agency, uses the army assurance framework to meet the audit requirements of recommendation 8. The approach is designed to support a culture of continuous improvement and addresses all aspects of training including the trainee learning experience. This includes regular inspections by various parties, as follows:

1st Party Assurance—completed at unit level under the direction of the unit commanding officer either weekly or monthly at the discretion of the commanding officer. The results of these inspections are reported annually to HQ ARTD.

2nd Party Assurance—completed by the Directorate of Individual Training (DITC) and the Adjutant General's Individual Training Inspectorate. The MOD's Directorate General of Training and Education coordinates all 2nd Party audits throughout the armed forces. A unit can expect to be audited by each organisation every two years

3rd Party Assurance—Completed by Ofsted usually every three years, at as little as 24 hours' notice.

The audit of the physical training estate is conducted through the integrated estate management plans (IEMPs). Since 2003 the MOD has improved some 20,000 single living bed spaces for the armed forces, and this will increase to 50,000 by 2013. In total the MOD plans to spend some £8.4 billion on living accommodation over the next decade, which includes £3 billion on delivering new build and upgraded accommodation. Phase One trainees are housed in dormitories which are partitioned into three separate areas, each with four beds, with individual wardrobes and storage cupboards providing a degree of individual privacy. On each floor there are four dormitories, with dedicated sanitary facilities, utility rooms, baggage stores, and communal and recreation areas. A platoon office and a 'duty of care' en suite bedroom are located on each floor, to ensure good visibility of personnel passing through the communal areas.

Armed Forces: Vetting

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Criminal Records Bureau checks have been conducted in connection with the appointment of instructors in each of the armed services; and how many and what proportion of appointments have been blocked as a result of vetting procedures. [230790]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In addition to the previous categories of personnel (service and civilian) for whom Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks could be made, since July 2007 we have been able to carry out CRB checks on those who care for, train, supervise or are solely in charge of service personnel aged under 18 in the armed forces, and on the supervisors or managers of such individuals.

Centrally held information on behalf of the Royal Navy and Army does not separately identify instructors from other categories of personnel who are also checked. The number of checks of RAF personnel which have been conducted in connection with the appointment of instructors. This number is 443, of whom five have been blocked as a result of the vetting procedures (just over 1 per cent.). A further 100 RAF checks are currently being processed.

China: Military Alliances

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received from the Chinese Government on military co-operation. [232062]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We have received no such representations.

However, as I said in my answer to the hon. Member for The Wrekin (Mark Pritchard) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 242W, my right hon. Friend's predecessor met the Deputy Chief of the People's Liberation Army General Staff in June this year and discussed a range of issues relating to Afghanistan.

This meeting fell within the bounds of the Government's policy on our bilateral defence engagement with China, which I explained in detail during the Adjournment debate on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 225WH.

Colchester Garrison: Housing

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether service personnel at Colchester Garrison have been accommodated in hotels in the last month. [232421]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Some service personnel were temporarily accommodated in hotels in the last month due to emergency works at the Colchester Garrison Warrant Officer's and Sergeants' Mess. The maximum number of personnel affected at any one time was 27.

Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the proposal to establish a Co-operative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence under the auspices of NATO; and what the terms of reference are for this Centre of Excellence. [230577]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The United Kingdom is fully supportive of the Estonian Cyber Defence initiative and their endeavours in this important area.

NATO describes the Mission and Focus of the Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence (Estonia) as:

> Improving Cyber Defence interoperability within the NATO Network Enabled Capability (NNEC) environment;
>
> Counter Cyber Defence doctrine and concept development and their validation;
>
> Enhance Information Security and cyber defence education, awareness, and training;
>
> Provide cyber defence support for experimentation (including on-site) for experimentation;
>
> Analysing the legal aspects of cyber defence.

Source:

http://transnet.act.nato.int/WISE/TNCC/CentresofE/CCD

Given the need to coordinate Cyber Defence with a number of other Government Departments and Allies, our preferred means of support is via virtual participation, rather than attach personnel permanently to Estonia. The United Kingdom is not a founding signatory nation to the NATO Centre of Excellence but we will keep our position under review.

Defence Equipment

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the short examination of the equipment programme, announced by the Minister of State for the Armed Forces on 19 June 2008, to be completed; whether he plans to publish the findings; and if he will make a statement. [231768]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The examination of the equipment programme is continuing. I envisage that the results of the examination will provide an important input to our 2009 planning round, which will be completed in spring 2009. We will announce significant decisions affecting projects as soon as we are able to do so.

Defence Estates: Animal Welfare

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Minister in his Department has responsibility for animal welfare on the defence estate. [232039]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As the Under-Secretary of State and Minister for veterans I have responsibility for the welfare of military working animals.

Farmers who hold a tenancy for land on the defence estate are responsible for the welfare of their animals.

Defence: Internet

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Government's policy is on *(a)* cyber defence and *(b)* cyber warfare. [229148]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 267W, to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies). It has been the longstanding practice of successive Governments not to comment on security and operational matters of this type.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies; [227229]

(2) how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230040]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Across the Department a variety of people are involved in communications often as a secondary function or in a very limited local way. There are no definitive central records available and exact data on all these individuals could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are 107 people, both civilian and serving military, in press or communications functions in the Directorate General Media and Communication (DGMC), the central MOD communications organisation. This includes staff based across the UK in Regional Press Offices often primarily supporting the armed forces with local media. This also includes MOD press officers deployed with the armed forces on operations to assist journalists in theatre.

The White Book, the Central Office of Information (COI) directory of communications staff in Government Departments and agencies, provides details of a further 157 people in full time communications posts outside of DGMC (as of the September 2008 edition). These are working in single service commands, major civilian top level budget (TLB) areas such as Defence Estates and Defence Equipment and Support and Trading funds such as the Meteorological Office and the UK Hydrographic Office.

The MOD does not hold central lists of communicators employed by non-departmental public bodies.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum was accounted for by *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staffing and *(d)* accommodation. [232970]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The MOD's expenditure both service and civilian on official entertainment in 2007-08 is recorded in the MOD's annual report and accounts (HC 850-I), Volume II, published on 21 July 2008. Copies are available in the Library of the House and the document is available online at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/AnnualReports/MODAnnual Reports0708/

The MOD's policy, rules and guidance on the provision of official entertainment are set out in chapter 45 of Joint Services Publication 462 (Financial Management Policy Manual), copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228767]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the 12 months ended 20 October, the costs claimed by MOD civil servants for overnight accommodation were approximately £17.4 million. This excludes Trading Fund Agencies which fall outside the Departmental Accounting boundary.

The figure of £17.4 million consists of £13.5 million in UK and £3.8 million overseas. These costs relate to a total of 218,569 nights in the UK and 52,624 nights overseas. That equates to an average claim of about £65 a night for accommodation in UK and £87 overseas.

Hotel bookings and travel for both civilian and service staff are usually made through the mandated Defence Hotel Reservation Service.

Departmental Security

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many departmental security passes were reported lost in the last 12 months. [231395]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Security passes are issued at local level and figures for lost/stolen passes are not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, details of lost/stolen service identity cards, which are used by service personnel as a security pass for site access purposes, are held centrally and are available from 2004.

The number of lost/stolen service identity cards for the last 12 months (1 September 2007 to 30 September 2008) is 9,667. It is not possible to differentiate between lost or stolen cards.

Ex-servicemen: Criminal Records

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what research is being conducted or evaluated by his Department into the number of criminal convictions of former members of the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [232237]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministries of Defence and Justice are working together to collect up-to-date and authoritative data on ex-service personnel in prison. We plan to conduct a survey of the current position and, for the longer term, collect data on the military service of all those entering prison. We are also looking at ways in which we can improve our understanding of the reasons why veterans are in prison and the extent to which their military service may be a factor.

Ex-servicemen: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what support is available to former members of the armed forces who, consequent on leaving the armed forces, are thought to be experiencing problems with *(a)* drugs and *(b)* alcohol; and if he will make a statement. [232112]

Mr. Kevan Jones: For those leaving the armed forces with an alcohol or drug problem, the three service welfare organisations can signpost to the sources of help that are available after discharge. The UK Departments of Health are generally responsible for the provision, through the national health service, of help to those experiencing problems with drugs and alcohol, including veterans.

However, the Ministry of Defence also provides advice and support to former members of the armed forces through the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency including its Veterans Welfare Service; it can be contacted through it's a free helpline and website. The ex-service charities supplement the various forms of support by Government with their own help for veterans.

Ex-servicemen: Post-traumatic Stress Disorder

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what resources are available to ensure that former members of the armed forces receive post-traumatic stress disorder counselling where necessary. [232910]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In line with long-standing practice, the health care of veterans is primarily a matter for the NHS which, evidence indicates, meets the needs of a large proportion of those with mental health problems. We are aware that some veterans seek a service that can provide an expert cultural understanding of the military context of their problems. To address this, the Department is working with the four UK health departments in piloting a new expert mental health care service for veterans in six NHS trusts across the UK. The NHS sites undertaking pilots are: Stafford, Camden and Islington, Cardiff, Bishop Auckland, Plymouth and Scotland. In addition, for those veterans and health professionals not in a pilot catchment area, we have expanded our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP), based at St. Thomas' hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms who have operational service since 1982 by a military psychiatrist with considerable service experience. Where appropriate, the Department also funds care at the centres run by the charity Combat Stress for those veterans in receipt of a war pension on the basis that their condition has been accepted as attributable to service.

Germany: NATO

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his German counterpart on Germany's fulfilment of its NATO obligations. [232603]

Mr. Hutton: I met Dr. Jung, the German Defence Minister, at the meeting of NATO Defence Ministers in Budapest on 9-10 October, where all Ministers reaffirmed the importance of providing the necessary forces for operations and of investing in the capabilities NATO needs.

Gulf of Aden: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 475-76W, on Gulf of Aden: piracy, which Departments were involved in the review of the Government's stance on piracy; which geographical regions the review covered; and what its main conclusions were. [232857]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Government have looked at what more can be done to counter the growing problem of piracy off the Horn of Africa. The review was co-ordinated by the Cabinet Office, in consultation with the Ministry of Defence, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Home Office, The Department for Transport, the Department for International Development, the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and the Ministry of Justice.

The review recognised the increased incidence of piracy in recent months off the Horn of Africa and Gulf of Aden. It noted that this is an international problem which the UK alone cannot solve and acknowledged that the UK was already supporting international efforts to counter piracy through Combined Task Force 150 and that planning was under way for both NATO and EU operations in which the UK would play a part. The review's main conclusion was that the UK should move beyond simply honouring commitments under international law to respond to individual acts of piracy, towards a more active role in countering piracy.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 475-76W, on Gulf of Aden: piracy, how many Royal Navy units are in the region engaged in seeking out pirate activity; and how many incidents of contact between Royal Navy vessels and pirates have been recorded. [232858]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are currently two ships in the region on operations that include counter piracy. Since August 2008 there have been three incidents of contact between Royal Navy ships and suspected pirate vessels.

Information Warfare

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the NATO *(a)* cyber threat assessment and *(b)* cyber defence concept. [230581]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: NATO plans to have an operational cyber threat assessment cell by 2010 and this cell will produce NATO cyber threat assessments from that date.

The NATO cyber defence concept was developed following the production of a cyber defence policy paper by the USA. The UK was a co-signatory to this paper, as were France and Estonia. The NATO cyber defence policy and the cyber defence concept were approved by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) earlier this year. The NATO Cyber Defence Management Authority (CDMA) was also given approval by the NAC earlier this year and the concept of operations for the CDMA are soon to be approved. The MoD assisted in the development of these documents through their drafting process to final version.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in which international organisations the UK has discussed cyber warfare or terrorism in the last three years. [230583]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has numerous multi lateral and bi lateral agreements with a number of different countries concerning the matters involving computer network defence (including cyber warfare or terrorism). The organisations dealt with on a regular basis on this subject are NATO, the International Computer Network Defence Co-ordination Working Group (ICCWG) and the International Network Activity Team (I-NAT).

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what funding was allocated by his Department to *(a)* the analysis of cyber threats or warfare and *(b)* the development of strategies to mitigate the impact of such threats in each of the last three years. [230584]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The analysis of cyber threats and the development of subsequent mitigation strategies are addressed in many ways across a variety of programmes and projects. The information requested is therefore not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

NATO

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the viability of NATO's security guarantee towards its newest members; and if he will make a statement. [232602]

Mr. Hutton: NATO Defence Ministers have met twice this autumn to consider the evolving security challenges that face the Alliance. NATO continues to underwrite the collective defence of all its allies, and the flexible military capabilities and structures it pursues enable it to respond in a timely fashion to any security threats, wherever they arise.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects NATO to produce a new strategic concept. [232604]

Mr. Hutton: We expect work on a new strategic concept to be commissioned at NATO's summit meeting in Strasbourg-Kehl next April.

Nuclear Disarmament

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will meet the Parliamentary All-Party CND Group to discuss nuclear disarmament policy. [232155]

Mr. Hutton: My predecessor met the Parliamentary All-Party CND Group on 21 July 2008, explaining and discussing in detail the Government's position on a wide variety of nuclear issues. I would, however, be happy to meet the Group in due course.

Peacekeeping Operations

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of operations in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan in the last 12 months. [231756]

Mr. Hutton: MOD identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred. The costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

Operational costs are calculated on an annual basis which are then audited by the National Audit Office. The last annual audited costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan, which can be found in the Notes to the Accounts of the MOD Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 Volume II, at paragraph 2.3, pages 291/292, are:

£

	Iraq	*Afghanistan*
Resource costs	1,054,825	1,071,014
Capital costs	402,658	433,089
Total	1,457,483	1,504,103

RAF Menwith Hill: Security

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department paid to North Yorkshire Police to cover the cost of the policing of the area around RAF Menwith Hill by armed response teams and the Counter Terrorist Unit in each year from 2001 to 2007. [231796]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence did not pay any monies to North Yorkshire Police between 2001 and 2007 for the cost of these units at RAF Menwith Hill.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229095]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Data on how many civil servants were seconded to work for trade unions and the Trades

Union Congress in each year since 2003 are not held centrally. Secondments are arranged locally by Business Partners and to gather this information would involve Business Partners trawling their records at disproportionate cost.

Trident Missiles

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the notice required to fire missiles from *(a)* a Trident submarine on patrol and *(b)* a second submarine at its berth is; and what notice is required for submarines to take to sea. [231403]

Mr. Hutton: As set out in the White Paper 'The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent' (Cm 6994), published on 4 December 2006, a Trident submarine on patrol is normally at several days 'notice to fire'. I am withholding further information as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice national security and defence of the UK.

USA: Military Alliances

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the next stocktake meeting between the Government and the US Administration under the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement is scheduled to take place. [232436]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Arrangements have not been finalised but consideration is currently being given to the next stocktake meeting being held in the UK in early June 2009.

USA: Military Bases

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many instances of burglary and trespassing there have been at bases occupied and controlled by the United States Visiting Forces in the latest period for which figures are available; and at which bases. [231790]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The number of instances of burglary and criminal trespass, recorded by the Ministry of Defence Police at United States Visiting Forces bases, in each of the last three financial years are shown in the following tables.

To provide the figures for each Home Department police force with a USVF base its region would incur disproportionate cost.

Site	*Number of burglaries*	*Number of trespasses*
April 2008 to October 2008		
RAF Mildenhall	0	1
April 2007 to March 2008		
RAF Mildenhall	1	1
RAF Menwith Hill	0	1
RAF Croughton	1	0
April 2006 to March 2007		
RAF Mildenhall	0	1
RAF Menwith Hill	1	3
RAF Alconbury	0	1
RAF Lakenheath	0	9

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which accident and emergency departments have closed since 1997. [231880]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested. National health service trusts self-report the total number of accident and emergency (A&E) services they provide against definitions provided by the Department for the three types of A&E on a quarterly basis. This includes information on the number of self-reported type 1 (major) A&E services at national and trust level.

It is a matter for the local NHS to ensure that emergency care services are provided that are responsive to people's needs. Changes to services are a matter for local, not central decision.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many consultation postcards were issued to the public in his Department's recent consultation on alcohol strategy; [228083]

(2) what the cost was of issuing consultation postcards to the public in his Department's recent consultation on alcohol strategy. [228084]

Dawn Primarolo: There were 100,000 consultation postcards printed at a cost of £7,091, and 10,000 copies of the these postcards were given to regional alcohol leads to distribute within their local areas as they deemed appropriate with the remainder given out at national and regional meetings to discuss the consultation on alcohol strategy, "Safe. Sensible. Social - Consultation on further action". A copy of this has been placed in the Library. As of 27 October 2008, approximately 1,500 postcards had been completed and returned.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in support of the 10 per cent. target for reduction in alcohol consumption mentioned in his Department's impact assessment relating to the Government's alcohol strategy. [228129]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has not set targets for a reduction in alcohol consumption.

The impact assessments to the Department's consultation document 'Safe, Sensible, Social—consultation on further action' included estimates of the impact of (a) an end-frame or information to be included within alcohol advertising (resulting in an estimated at a 2.4 per cent. reduction in consumption) and (b) measures to place unit and health information on alcohol labels (direct evidence not available to show impact on consumption. However, there is reason to expect some impact and a 0.02 per cent. reduction in consumption would yield enough benefits to offset the costs involved).

A technical appendix to the assessment explained how these estimates had been arrived and a theoretical 10 per cent. reduction in per capita alcohol consumption was chosen solely to illustrate the methodology. The impact assessments make this theoretical illustration very clear.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the cost of ambulance and paramedic journeys to treat patients where excessive alcohol consumption was a primary or secondary diagnosis was in each of the last five years; [232137]

(2) what proportion of ambulance and paramedic journeys related to patients requiring treatment following the consumption of excessive alcohol in each of the last five years. [232138]

Mr. Bradshaw: Data are not collected centrally on the proportion of ambulance journeys that are related to excessive consumption of alcohol, or the cost of those journeys.

Ambulance Services: Airwave Service

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the original budget was for the provision of Airwave radios to the Ambulance Service, broken down by ambulance service trust; how much has been spent by each trust; and what the projected final spend is in each trust. [231960]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Ambulance Radio Programme is delivering a managed service solution for digital radio communications for the 11 Ambulance Trusts in England. The programme is estimated to cost £517 million, but funds are not distributed to individual ambulance trusts as the programme is managed centrally. As at the end of October 2008, programme expenditure has been £82.2 million.

The scope of services being provided centrally was originally based on requirements drawn up by trusts in February 2005. Any additional trust service requirements arising since then are funded by trusts themselves. To date, expenditure on new, further requirements totals £11.4 million.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the original timetable for the provision of Airwave radios to the Ambulance Service was, broken down by ambulance service trust; what the latest performance is against that timetable, broken down by trust; and when he expects full implementation to be achieved. [231961]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is in the following table.

Trust	*Service Area (Trust pre Reconfiguration)*	*Original service commencement date*	*Service commencement date or forecast date*
East of England Ambulance Service	Essex	October 2006	June 2007
	East Anglia	September 2007	Q3 2009
	Beds and Herts	August 2007	
East Midlands Ambulance Service	Lincolnshire	November 2006	September 2007
	East Midlands	October 2007	Q12009
	Northants (part of Two Shires AS)	December 2007	
Great Western Ambulance Service	Gloucestershire	March 2008	Q2 2009
	Avon	February 2008	
	Wiltshire	April 2008	
Isle of Wight	Isle of Wight	January 2007	Q4 2008
London Ambulance Service	London	February 2008	Q3 2009
North East Ambulance Service	Newcastle[1]	October 2007	December 2007
North West Ambulance Service	Greater Manchester	May 2008	Q4 2009
	Lancs	January 2008	
	Cumbria	February 2007	
	Mersey	November 2007	
South East Coast Ambulance Service	Kent	May 2008	Q2 2009
	Surrey	November 2006	
	Sussex	May 2007	
South Central Ambulance Service	Hants	August 2007	Q4 2009
	Bucks (Part of Two Shires AS)	December 2007	
	Oxfordshire	May 2007	
	Royal Berkshire	May 2008	
South Western Ambulance Service	Dorset	December 2006	Q2 2009
	West country	December 2007	
West Midlands Ambulance Service	West Midlands	December 2006	Q1 2009
	Shropshire	April 2008	
	Staffordshire	December 2007	

Trust	*Service Area (Trust pre Reconfiguration)*	*Original service commencement date*	*Service commencement date or forecast date*
	Coventry and Warks	February 2007	
	Hereford and Worcestershire	November 2006	December 2007
Yorkshire Ambulance Service	West Yorkshire Metropolitan	March 2007	Q3 2009
	East and North Yorkshire	July 2007	
	South Yorkshire	February 2007	December 2007

[1] A second Airwave service will be introduced for the North East Ambulance Service's second control room whose location is yet to be finalised.

The principal cause for a later service commencement date has been the significant re-scoping and redesigning of the radio solution following the major reconfiguration of the Ambulance Trusts in 2006. This has resulted in a more resilient and flexible solution being delivered which comes about through the networking of two of the communication control system and the ability of Trust control rooms to connect to either system. It is planned that all Trusts will have full service by the end of 2009.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether Airwave radios will be provided to *(a)* all ambulances, *(b)* all ambulance personnel and *(c)* all community first responders. [231962]

Mr. Bradshaw: The centrally funded provision of airwave Tetra radios is based on the fleet sizes and other requirements of NHS ambulance trusts in February 2005. This provision allowed for radios to be installed in all A&E ambulances, rapid response vehicles, officers cars, patient transport vehicles, on motorbikes and in air ambulances. One ambulance trust has indicated a requirement for radios for community first responders. All subsequent new requirements are added to the contract, with costs met by the trusts concerned.

Radios are not provided on 'personal issue' basis to all ambulance personnel. The A&E ambulance fleet is generally fitted with a vehicle set and two hand-portable radios for the crew of the vehicle, while single-manned vehicles are equipped with a vehicle set and a single hand-portable radio.

Baby Care Units

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average occupancy rate for neonatal units in England was in each year since 1997. [231896]

Ann Keen: The average bed occupancy rates for wards open overnight were as given in the following table. The columns are total number of beds (B), number of beds occupied on average (N), and number occupied as a percentage of the total (Percentage)

	Intensive care: neonates			*Other general and acute: neonates and children*		
	B	*N*	*Percentage*	*B*	*N*	*Percentage*
1997-98	1,530	1,052	68.8	10,467	6,261	59.8
1998-99	1,525	1,079	70.8	10,052	6,198	61.7
1999-2000	1,534	1,101	71.8	9,807	5,965	60.8
2000-01	1,517	1,092	72.0	9,576	5,778	60.3
2001-02	1,543	1,088	70.5	9,398	5,613	59.7
2002-03	1,551	1,081	69.7	9,300	5,541	59.6
2003-04	1,491	1,084	72.7	9,191	5,639	61.4
2004-05	1,523	1,120	73.6	8,995	5,477	60.9
2005-06	1,707	1,207	70.7	8,584	5,338	62.2
2006-07	1,658	1,233	74.3	8,461	5,276	62.4
2007-08	1,734	1,257	72.5	8,314	5,315	63.9

Source:
Department of Health form KH03

Breast Cancer

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent steps his Department has taken to raise awareness of breast cancer among the general public; [231058]

(2) what steps his Department has taken to raise awareness among the general public that breast cancer can affect men as well as women. [231059]

Ann Keen: Raising awareness of the symptoms of cancer is a key element of the Cancer Reform Strategy. Through the National Awareness and Early Diagnosis Initiative, we will be taking forward work to improve awareness of the signs and symptoms of all cancers, including breast cancer, among men and women. We will be working to support local interventions to increase cancer symptom awareness and encourage early presentation.

We are currently investing in the Improvement Foundation's pilot work to develop and test methods of raising awareness of breast, bowel and lung cancers in 20 of the most deprived areas in the country. Full findings are expected in 2009-10.

The Department encourages all women to be breast aware. Our Be Breast Aware leaflet (a copy of which has been placed in the Library), produced with Cancer Research UK, sets out the signs and symptoms of breast cancer so women know what to look for.

Male breast cancer is very rare. In England in 2005, 260 men were diagnosed with breast cancer in England compared to 38,108 women, and 77 men died from breast cancer in England compared to 10,244 women.

We acknowledge the importance of raising men's awareness of health issues and encouraging men to take an active interest in their health. Breast Cancer Care has produced an information pack for men, "Men with breast cancer". The Department contributed towards the cost of the Men's Health Forum's "Men and Cancer" manual, published in 2004, which provides information on prevention and treatment for all cancers that affect men.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many registered NHS dentists there are in *(a)* Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England. [232319]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08' report. Information is provided by strategic health authority and by primary care trust but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

The published numbers relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229164]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information technology projects currently being undertaken by the Department, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency (PASA) are shown in the following table.

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Current estimated delivery date of project*	*Total estimated cost of project (£000)*
Department of Health	Ref Costs 2008	December 2008	1,227
Department of Health	MEDS Improvements	May 2009	240
Department of Health	MEDBEN	October 2008	1,093
Department of Health	Learning Management System	May 2009	684
Department of Health	Contact	March 2009	519
Department of Health	ACCEA	July 2009	1,203
Department of Health	CAS	October 2008	550
Department of Health	Delphi 2	February 2009	2,198
Department of Health	Business Intelligence Implementation	January 2009	967
Department of Health	Enterprise Architecture Programme[1]	March 2009	250
Department of Health	Health Protection Informatics Website[2]	n/a	[3]3,870
			[4]2,000
Department of Health	Quickr (Quickplace Upgrade)	January 2009	188
Department of Health	Centralised Security Monitoring	November 2008	171
Department of Health	Citrix Upgrade	December 2008	163
Department of Health	WAN Upgrade	April 2009	411
MHRA	Sentinel Server Upgrade	January 2009	3,500
MHRA	Sentinel Component software development	June 2009	1,600
MHRA	Eudra GMP Linkage	January 2009	320
PASA	Pharmacy Replacement	March 2009	281

[1] Funding of an additional £500,000 currently awaits approval.
[2] The website is being produced and maintained as part of the Immunisation Web Programme which started in October 2004 to support the Department ongoing immunisation programme. It does not have a given end date.
[3] Cost to April 2008.
[4] Estimated annual cost

The IT projects currently being undertaken by Connecting for Health are shown in the following table.

Name of organisation	*Name of project*	*Current estimated delivery date of project*	*Total estimated cost of project (£ billion)*
Connecting for Health	National Programme for IT (NPfIT)	[1]—	[2]12.656

[1] NPfIT comprises a number of separate systems and services for which, as a whole, there is no single completion date.
[2] At 2004-05 prices, including local costs, as reported by the National Audit Office in its May 2008 report on NPfIT.

Departmental NDPBs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for the *(a)* Carcinogenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and Environment Committee, *(b)* Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment Committee, *(c)* Medical Effects of Air Pollution Committee, *(d)* Independent Reconfiguration Panel and *(e)* National Joint Registry Steering Committee was in each year for the last five years. [231566]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The Food Standards Agency pays for the Committee on Toxicity (six meetings a year) and the Department for the Committees on Carcinogenicity (COC) and Mutagenicity (three meetings a year each). The annual budget for COC in 2006 was £10,000, £12,000 in 2007 and £12,200 in 2008.

The Secretariat to the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) is provided by the Health Protection Agency on behalf of the Department. The annual budget for COMARE was £27,300 in 2007-08, £30,000 in 2006-07 and £17,500 in 2005-06.

The Secretariat to the Committee on the Medical Effects of Air Pollutants (COMEAP) is provided by the Health Protection Agency on behalf of the Department. The annual budget for COMEAP and its associated subgroups (currently three) was £25,000 for each of the past three years. Costs for the previous two years were not separately identified.

Independent Reconfiguration Panel expenditure is not separately identified within departmental costs.

The National Joint Registry Steering Committee (NJRSC) advises the National Joint Registry programme. It does not have a budget in its own right. Steering Committee members are paid expenses only. Costs for the last three years, as set out in the NJR Annual Reports, are set out in the following table. Costs for the previous two years have not been separately identified.

National joint registry steering committee costs

April to March each year	*Cost (£)*
2007-08	20,492.91
2006-07	18,650.36
2005-06	12,477.95

Departmental Private Finance Initiative

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* total value, *(b)* revenue payments made to date and *(c)* estimated revenue payments for the life of each private finance initiative contract was of all private finance initiative projects granted approval by his Department in each year since 1997. [231878]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the capital value and estimated revenue payments for the lifetime of each private finance initiative contract has been placed in the Library.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228918]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on passes lost and stolen is not held for Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency and NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. The Department does not hold this information prior to 2006. Data on passes lost on stolen from 2006 are as follows:

	Lost	*Stolen*
2006	56	11
2007	95	8
2008 to July	48	5

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229087]

Mr. Bradshaw: The companies currently used by the Department for providing temporary staff are:

Adecco UK Ltd.
Big Hat Ltd.
Brook Street UK Ltd.
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Carlisle Staffing plc/Tate
COI Communications
Hays
Kelly Services
KPMG
Lifeline Personnel Ltd.
Methods Consulting
Office Angels
Office for Public Management
Presnow
Reed Employment plc
Robert Half International
Select Appointments plc
Step Ahead
Sue Hill Recruitment
Teleresources.

Historic information on companies used by the Department is not available. Information on the value of contracts with each company is also not available.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230511]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions on external training courses for staff are made locally. The Department does not therefore hold central records of course attendance or the costs involved. To collect such information would incur disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* in-patient, *(b)* out-patient and *(c)* community drug treatment programme places were available for problem drug users, in each of the last five years, broken down by region; and if he will make a statement. [225735]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) does not record the number of drug treatment places available, but it does record the number of people in drug treatment and the number of treatment episodes, which is the best indication on treatment capacity we have, although these data are not broken down by region. The information is shown in the following tables.

Data on the number of people in drug treatment for the last five years:

	Number of people in drug treatment
2003-04	125,545
2004-05	160,453
2005-06	177,055
2006-07	195,464
2007-08	202,666

Data on the number of treatment episodes for the last five years are shown in the following tables. It is important to note that clients may have received more than one type of treatment and this is why the totals given do not match the figures given in the previous table.

2003-04

Type of treatment	*Percentage of treatment episodes*
Inpatient detoxification	3
Specialist prescribing	54
General practitioner (GP) prescribing	9
Structured counselling	21
Structured day care	6
Residential rehabilitation	2
Other structured intervention	5
Total	100
Total treatment codes	98,991
Missing treatment codes	51,020
Total including missing data	150,011

It should be noted that NDTMS data were not collected in 2003-04, however the NTA did ask for some summary retrospective data at the outset of 2004-05, for each agency to provide the most recent episode in the year for each person treated in the year. While this approach was able to provide an estimate of the total number of individuals treated in the year, it does not provide an estimate of the total number of episodes or treatments provided.

2004-05

Type of treatment	*Number of people receiving treatment*	*Percentage of people receiving treatment*
Inpatient detoxification	5,464	2
Specialist prescribing	88,450	37
GP prescribing	35,409	15
Structured counselling	52,796	22
Structured day care	18,069	8
Residential rehabilitation	5,620	2
Other structured intervention	31,492	13
Young Persons' service	2,995	1
Total treatment codes	240,295	100
Missing treatment codes	57,248	—
Total including missing data	297,543	—

2005-06

Type of treatment	*Number of people receiving treatment*	*Percentage of people receiving treatment*
Inpatient detoxification	7,038	2
Specialist prescribing	107,312	35
GP prescribing	45,702	15
Structured counselling	58,831	19
Structured day care	25,085	8
Residential rehabilitation	5,749	2
Other structured intervention	40,678	13
Young Persons' psychosocial intervention	8,442	3
Young Persons' Harm reduction services	3,519	1
Young Persons' Criminal Justice interventions	2,275	1
Young Persons' Specialist pharmacological interventions	1,233	0
Other Young Persons' specific interventions	765	0
Total treatment codes	306,629	[1]99
Missing treatment codes	31,578	—
Total including missing data	338,207	—

[1] This figure does not equal 100 per cent. due to the rounding up/down of the preceding percentages.

2006-07

Type of treatment	*Number of people receiving treatment*	*Percentage of people receiving treatment*
Inpatient treatment	7,773	2
Specialist prescribing	116,522	34
GP prescribing	51,472	15
Structured psychosocial intervention	59,317	17
Structured day programme	28,672	8
Residential rehabilitation	5,859	2
Other structured intervention	50,475	15
Young Persons' psychosocial intervention	11,908	3
Young Persons' Harm reduction services	4,447	1
Young Persons' Criminal Justice interventions	3,174	1
Young Persons' Specialist pharmacological interventions	1,168	0
Other Young Persons' specific interventions	810	0
Total treatment codes	341,597	[1]98
Missing treatment codes	29,257	—
Total including missing data	370,854	—

[1] This figure does not equal 100 per cent. due to the rounding up/down of the preceding percentages.

	2007-08	
Type of treatment	*Number of people receiving treatment*	*Percentage of people receiving treatment*
Inpatient treatment	7,957	2
Specialist prescribing	131,110	36
GP prescribing	55,482	15
Structured psychosocial intervention	58,630	16
Structured day programme	24,308	7
Residential rehabilitation	5,350	1
Other structured intervention	59,033	16
Young Persons' psychosocial intervention	14,058	4
Young Persons' Harm reduction services	6,009	2
Young Persons' Criminal Justice interventions	3,242	1
Young Persons' Specialist pharmacological interventions	821	0
Other Young Persons' specific interventions	995	0
Total treatment codes	366,995	100
Missing treatment codes	12,053	—
Total including missing data	379,048	—

General Practitioners: Telephone Services

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of introducing 0344 numbers for GP surgeries. [231143]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department is currently gathering evidence on the use of 0844 numbers in general practice and will consider what further action is necessary in light of that evidence.

As part of the information gathering evidence, the Department will consider the merits of the 03 number range. This exercise has not yet concluded.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W, on health centres, what purpose his Department expects the minimum income guarantee permitted for each new GP-led health centre to serve. [231063]

Mr. Bradshaw: Where a primary care trust (PCT) chooses to provide an income guarantee for a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre, it shares with the provider the risks arising from starting a new service with an unknown volume of activity (unregistered patient attendances) and is therefore planning to minimise the potential financial risks and service costs from an unknown local demand. As demand and volume activity becomes predicted from such services we believe PCTs will move away from such 'block contracts'.

Health Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which stroke units in England have closed since 1997; [231881]

(2) which cardiac units have closed since 1997. [231891]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

High Dependency Units: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS high dependence units have closed since 1997. [231875]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. Local health service providers, working with their commissioners of health care, determine the configuration of critical care services that most effectively meet the needs of their local populations. Since 2000, there has been an increasing trend for high dependency units to merge with intensive care units as this offers the prospects for the best outcomes for patients associated with the most effective and efficient use of resources.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many times items on Part IX of the drug tariff have been prescribed in the last 12 months; what proportion of such prescriptions have been filled; and if he will make a statement. [231737]

Phil Hope: According to the prescription cost analysis (PCA) system, an estimated 23.4 million prescription items were dispensed in England for products corresponding to those listed at Part IX of the drug tariff in the period July 2007 to June 2008. The number of prescriptions written for such products is not held centrally.

Independent Television News

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department paid to ITN *(a)* in each year from 2005-06 to 2007-08 and *(b)* in 2008-09 to date; and what films were made by ITN for his Department in each year. [228268]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has commissioned three films directly from ITN Newscast in the period 2005-06, 2007-08, and 2008-09 to date. They are as follows:

	Film	*Cost (£)*
2006-07	"Enhancing Patient Care through Mental Health Research"	11,500
2007-08	"Health Research in Primary Care"	12,500
2008-09	"Transforming Health Research"	29,000

Note: All figures include VAT.

Intensive Care: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS intensive care units have closed since 1997. [231876]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally. Local health service providers, working with their commissioners of health care, determine the configuration of critical care services that most effectively meet the needs of their local populations. Since 2000, there has been an increasing trend for intensive care units to merge with high dependency units as this offers the prospects for the best outcomes for patients associated with the most effective and efficient use of resources.

NHS: Correspondence

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when officials in the NHS Cancer Screening Programme plans to respond to the emails from Mr John Neate, of the Prostate Cancer Charity, to the Director of NHS Cancer Screening Programmes of *(a)* 29 July 2008, *(b)* 17 September 2008, *(c)* 24 September 2008 and *(d)* 29th September 2008 relating to the Prostate Cancer Risk Management Programme. [231930]

Ann Keen: On behalf of NHS Cancer Screening Programmes, the National Cancer Director, Professor Mike Richards, responded in full to all the points raised by The Prostate Cancer Charity in his letter of 9 October 2008 to Mr. John Neate.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* evaluated and *(b)* commissioned on abnormalities, other than vaginal cancer, which have occurred amongst daughters of women prescribed the drug diethylstilbestrol. [231654]

Ann Keen: Diethylstilbestrol (DES) is an oestrogenic hormone formerly used in the treatment of threatened miscarriage.

The Department is aware of several studies that are investigating the risk of abnormalities other than vaginal cancer in women who were exposed to DES in utero. Most of these data come from a large ongoing study conducted by the National Institute of Cancer in the United States. These data have not been formally evaluated but there is some evidence to suggest that the risk of cervical cancer in DES daughters may be increased and limited support for an increased risk of breast cancer in young women. The Department encourages women to attend regular cervical and breast screening.

In 1978 a study commissioned by the Medical Research Council followed up women in the UK who had been exposed to DES and their offspring for all significant health outcomes. Mothers and offspring were flagged at the National Health Service Central Register and coded copies of death and cancer registrations were notified to the researchers. Follow-up was discontinued in 1999 due to small numbers of participants.

NHS: Fees and Charges

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services are not provided free at the point of use in the NHS; when charges were introduced for each of these services; and how much was raised by each type of charge *(a)* in the last year for which figures are available and *(b)* since its introduction or in the last 30 years, whichever is the shorter period. [229495]

Mr. Bradshaw: Some services in the national health service are not provided free at the point of need for certain sections of the population. However, help with NHS charges is available for priority groups such as children, older people and those on a low income and different exemptions apply for different charges. The main charges and exemptions are set out in booklet HC11 "Help with Health Costs" which has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Healthcare/Medicines pharmacyandindustry/Prescriptons/NHScosts/index.htm

NHS primary dental care services are part funded by patient contributions. Charges for dentures were first introduced in 1951. From 1952 onwards, charges have been applicable to all types of dental treatment and were extended to include dental examinations in 1989. Charges are not applicable to dental treatment received in an NHS hospital, although outpatients may have to pay for the supply of dentures or bridges. Charge income collected from NHS primary dental care services in England is shown in the table.

Financial year	*NHS dental charge income (£ million)*
2007-08	538.3
2006-07	472.2
2005-06	409.8
2004-05	465.9
2003-04	483.6
2002-03	486.7
2001-02	472.1
2000-01	451.9
1999-2000	431.2
1998-99	419.6
1997-98	388.4
1996-97	383.0
1995-96	381.2
1994-95	383.3
1993-94	367.0
1992-93	394.8
1991-92	404.0
1990-91	379.7
1989-90	366.2
1988-89	290.6
1987-88	240.4
1986-87	221.0
1985-86	196.1
1984-85	170.5
1983-84	155.3
1982-83	141.0
1981-82	115.1
1980-81	92.5
1979-80	69.9
1978-79	55.4

Source:
NHS accounts or associated audited notes.

Prescription charges were first introduced in 1952. They were abolished in 1965, but then re-introduced in 1968. Revenue from prescription charges and pre-payment certificates in England is shown in the table. Information for 2007 is not yet available.

	Revenue from prescription charges and pre-payment certificates (£ million)
2006	412.0
2005	427.0
2004	422.0
2003	426.0
2002	423.0

	Revenue from prescription charges and pre-payment certificates (£ million)
2001	408.0
2000	387.0
1999	367.0
1998	341.0
1997	321.0
1996	246.1
1995	249.6
1994	235.3
1993	220.0
1992	203.2
1991	187.4
1990	173.3
1989	155.4
1988	152.7
1987	138.1
1986	125.4
1985	114.4
1984	103.3
1983	95.7
1982	88.1
1981	75.7
1980	58.6
1979	32.7
1978	22.6
1977	21.7
1976	21.9

Source:
Annual Abstract of Statistics, Office for National Statistics.

Wigs and fabric supports are provided by the NHS but patients are charged for them unless they qualify for help with charges. These charges have been in place since 1971. Information on the charges collected for such items is not collected centrally.

Overseas visitors: Hospital services provided in respect of persons not ordinarily resident in Great Britain are not provided free at the point of delivery unless that person is considered exempt from having to pay the charge. Charges for such persons were first introduced in 1982. The number of persons treated or charged under these regulations and the costs involved are not collected centrally.

Sight tests: There are no charges for sight tests provided under NHS arrangements. Sight tests are free to certain priority groups and private sight tests are available for all other patients from independent optical practices, and any income from the charges they choose to levy is retained by those practices.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 35 of his Department's resource accounts for 2007-08, whether his Department has retained the £1.67 billion NHS surplus for expenditure in 2008-09. [229972]

Mr. Bradshaw: The £1.67 billion surplus generated in the 2007-08 financial year sits within national health service organisations and, as discussed in the Department's 2008-09 Quarter 1 edition of "The Quarter", the £1.667 billion surplus from the 2007-08 financial year has been brought forward to the 2008-09 financial year. "The Quarter" has been placed in the Library.

The 2008-09 Operating Framework made it clear that we expect the NHS to plan for a surplus broadly similar to the surplus in 2007-08. This enables the full deployment of baseline and additional resources for 2008-09 and continues with our strategy for flexibility to respond to fluctuations in demand whilst maintaining sufficient funds for investment in new services.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to page 27, paragraph 16 of his Department's resource accounts for 2007-08, from which organisation each named individual was seconded. [229973]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information was provided on pages 23 and 24 of the resource accounts and is presented in the following table:

Secondee in	*Organisation of origin*
Mark Britnell	South Central Strategic Health Authority
Andrew Cash	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Sally Davies	Northwick Park Hospital NHS Trust
David Flory	North East Strategic Health Authority
Bruce Keogh	University College London Hospital NHS Trust
Matthew Swindells	Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates Ministers in his Department met representatives of HM Treasury to discuss NHS surpluses in the past two years. [231066]

Mr. Bradshaw: There have been no meetings between Ministers of this Department and representatives of HM Treasury to discuss national health service surpluses.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health where the NHS surplus generated in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08 has been (i) held and (ii) allocated. [231067]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the financial regime applied to the national health service, surpluses are reported in the accounts of the individual organisations that generate them. The surpluses generated in 2006-07 and 2007-08 sit within the NHS, and are reported within NHS accounts.

The surpluses are not lost to the NHS, but are available to be carried forward for use in future years.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department has received from HM Treasury on the *(a)* generation and *(b)* use of surpluses in the NHS. [231068]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has received no guidance from HM Treasury on the generation and use of surpluses in the national health service.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS trusts which generate a surplus in *(a)* the latest and *(b)* the present financial year are to be permitted to carry over the surplus into the next financial year. [231087]

Mr. Bradshaw: Under the financial regime applied to the national health service, surpluses are reported in the accounts of the individual organisations that generate them.

NHS trusts that generated a surplus in 2007-08, recorded this surplus within their income and expenditure accounts, and carried the surplus forward to 2008-09. Any further surplus achieved in 2008-09 added to the brought forward surplus from 2007-08 and carried forward to 2009-10.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his current estimated outturn is for capital expenditure in 2008-09 attributable to the National Health Service including funding available to NHS Foundation Trusts, in terms consistent with the calculation in Figure A3 of his Department's 2008 Departmental Report. [232691]

Mr. Bradshaw: The requested statistic will be included in the HM Treasury pre-Budget report.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether strategic health authority or primary care trust revenue resource limits for 2008-09 have been adjusted to take into account *(a)* surpluses carried forward from financial year 2007-08 and *(b)* the return to primary care trusts of top-sliced funds held back in 2007-08 by strategic health authorities. [232702]

Mr. Bradshaw: Strategic health authority (SHA) revenue resource limits for 2008-09 have been adjusted to take account of surpluses made in 2007-08 by the primary care trusts (PCTs) in their health economy area and by the SHA itself.

It is for each SHA to manage both the timing and method for repaying top-slice contributions made by their PCTs. Where an SHA has repaid top-slice, the revenue resource limit of the PCT will be adjusted by means of an inter authority transfer.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much of the top-sliced primary care trust allocations held back by strategic health authorities at 31 March 2008 had been allocated to primary care trusts for 2008-09. [232703]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not available from data collected during the year, but will be derived from 2008-09 draft accounts data collected from the national health service after the end of the financial year.

NHS: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent per head on health services in *(a)* Bexley Care Trust and *(b)* Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust areas in the latest period for which figures are available. [231144]

Mr. Bradshaw: Expenditure per unweighted head of population in 2007-08 by Bexley Care Trust was £1,320.91. Spend in Bexley Care Trust is based on the net operating cost reported in the primary care trust's (PCTs) audited financial monitoring and accounts forms. This does not include all expenditure as the majority of pharmaceutical services expenditure is accounted for by the NHS Business Services Authority rather than by PCTs. Population figure used is Office of National Statistics 2007 estimate for Bexley Care Trust.

Expenditure per head of population cannot be calculated for national health service trusts as they do not cover specific areas and may receive income from commissioners throughout England.

NHS: Security

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each NHS trust spent on *(a)* security guards and *(b)* other security measures to protect patients and staff in each of the last three years. [232141]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Palliative Care

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* hospitals and *(b)* hospices use the Liverpool Pathway for terminal care of patients. [231591]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally. The NHS End of Life Care Programme, which ran from 2004 to 2007, supported the roll-out of three end of life care tools, the Gold Standards Framework, the Liverpool Care Pathway and the Preferred Priorities for Care. Data collected by the programme show that, at December 2007, one or more of these tools was being used in 74 per cent. of general practitioner practices, 85 per cent. of hospitals, 41 per cent. of community hospitals, 74 per cent. of hospices and 7.4 per cent. of care homes.

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230606]

Mr. Bradshaw: Decisions on staff attending Plain English Campaign training sessions are taken locally. The Department therefore does not hold a central record of such attendance and is unable to provide costs in each year since 2005.

Political Impartiality

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the Commercial Director of his Department is permitted to make donations to a political party in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* the USA under the terms of his contract with the Department. [230648]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: Members of the senior civil service cannot take part in national or international political activities, including making donations, and must seek written permission to take part in local political activities.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Health in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230740]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health leads on two cross-government public service agreement(s) (PSA)—Better Health and Well Being for all PSA 18 and Better Care for all PSA 19. The Department has signed up as a formal delivery partner for the following 11 PSAs:

Socially Excluded Adults PSA
Housing Supply PSA
Young People on Paths to Success PSA
Child Safety PSA
Children and Young People Health and Well Being PSA
Science and Innovation PSA
Later Life PSA
Employment PSA
Equalities PSA
Alcohol and Drugs PSA
Safer Communities PSA.

It is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Trust: Translation Services

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire NHS Healthcare Trust spent on translators in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date. [232748]

Mr. Bradshaw: This information is not held centrally.

Slaughterhouses: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on abattoir inspections in each of the last 10 years, broken down by abattoir. [232493]

Dawn Primarolo: The Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) manages its costs across geographic areas and does not collate costs by individual abattoir.

The gross operating cost of the MHS—including inspection activities in abattoirs, tasks for Government Departments such as Food Standards Agency and Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and administrative and managerial support costs—is shown in the following table:

	Gross operating cost (£ million)
1998-99	63.1
1999-2000	66.9
2000-01	64.6
2001-02	[1]77.7
2002-03	81.2
2003-04	82.0
2004-05	83.7
2005-06	88.2
2006-07	91.3
2007-08	[2]87.1

[1] Gross operating cost increased in 2001-02 due to the regulatory requirement for full-time veterinary attendance in abattoirs and the 2001 foot and mouth disease outbreak.

[2] Gross operating cost for 2007-08 excludes costs relating to the MHS modernisation programme.

Social Workers: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many social workers per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [231927]

Ann Keen: The following table shows data for the number of whole-time equivalent social workers per 100,000 head of population for Hertfordshire as of the 30 September each year from 1997 to 2007.

Data for 2008 are expected to be published in spring 2009.

Hertfordshire

As at 30 September each year	*Whole-time equivalent social workers per 100,000 head of population*
1997	64.5
1998	65.1
1999	75.7
2000	76.6
2001	76.2
2002	67.0
2003	65.7
2004	64.6
2005	64.1
2006	66.1
2007	68.0

Source:
SSDS001

Data are not collected centrally for Hemel Hempstead.

Speech Therapy

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care episodes related to speech and language therapy there were in each year since 1996-97 for which figures are available. [231714]

Ann Keen: The available information is published in 'NHS Speech and Language Therapy Services, Summary Information for 2004-05, England'. The document has already been placed in the Library.

As part of the Department's initiative to reduce the burden of data collection on national health service front-line staff, the activity data returns on speech and language therapy were discontinued from April 2005.

Swindon Great Western Hospital: Private Finance Initiative

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what the estimated annual cost of private finance initiative contracts associated with the construction and maintenance of the Swindon Great Western hospital is for each year of the remaining duration of these contracts from 2008-09; [230805]

(2) what the annual cost of private finance initiative contracts associated with the construction and maintenance of the Swindon Great Western hospital has been in each year since inception to the end of 2007-08. [230806]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member for Bridgwater to the answer given to the hon. Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning) on 27 February 2008, *Official*

Report, column 1768W. The list for the private finance initiative (PR) schemes placed in the Library contains the estimated annual payments over the full 28 year operational period of the PFI contract for Swindon and Marlborough NHS Trust, based on information held by the Department.

Tumours: Surgery

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients who have received robotic radiosurgery treatment for inoperable tumours in NHS hospitals in the last 10 years. [232849]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not available centrally.

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received about the provision on the NHS of robotic radiosurgery for inoperable tumours. [232863]

Ann Keen: During 2008, the Department has received seven representations on CyberKnife, a robotic radiosurgery technique, comprising four letters and a parliamentary question from hon. Members and two e-mails from a member of the public.

Upper Gastrointestinal Cancer

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have been referred to each of the new upper-gastro-intestinal cancer centres; and how many of those people have been *(a)* diagnosed with upper-gastro-intestinal cancer, *(b)* given treatment which does not include surgery and *(c)* given surgical treatment. [231149]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not collected centrally.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of post-operative upper-gastro-intestinal cancer patients in each hospital or other treatment centre died *(a)* in hospital and *(b)* within (i) 30 days, (ii) 90 days and (iii) one year of their operation in each of the last three years. [231150]

Ann Keen: The requested information is not available centrally.

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer networks have *(a)* agreed, *(b)* commenced and *(c)* completed reconfiguration to comply with upper-gastro-intestinal improving outcomes guidance. [231152]

Ann Keen: Progress on the implementation of improving outcomes guidance is reported in June and December each year. As at June 2008, 21 of the 28 cancer networks across the country had implemented improving outcomes in upper gastro-intestinal cancers. The remaining seven cancer networks had agreed plans with the National Cancer Action Team for the implementation of this guidance.

TREASURY

Bank Services

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to ensure that those running businesses in the UK financed by Icelandic banks can continue to use their overdraft facilities. [229068]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* As Chancellor announced on 13 October, the Bank of England has provided a short-term loan of up to £100 million to the London branch of Landsbanki. This loan will help ensure an orderly wind-down for Landsbanki which will maximise the returns to UK creditors. We are continuing to work closely with the Icelandic authorities to ensure a fair process for UK creditors.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps are being taken to improve consumer awareness of the extent of deposit coverage. [231015]

Ian Pearson: Consumer awareness of the coverage of the financial services compensation scheme (FSCS) is a matter for the industry itself—the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and the FSCS. The FSA and the FSCS are reviewing how consumers can be better informed about the current compensation scheme (including undertaking research into consumer awareness). If appropriate, the FSA may consult on rule changes to facilitate awareness of entitlement to compensation under the FSCS, alongside any industry-led initiatives.

Bank Services: Loans

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) pursuant to his statement of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 540-41, on financial markets, what reference point his Department proposes to use in respect of the requirement for banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme to maintain *(a)* the volume of lending to and *(b)* the interest rates charged to homeowners and small businesses at least at 2007 levels; [228814]

(2) whether his Department's agreements with each of the banks participating in the recapitalisation scheme include commitments on the policy of each institution in respect of *(a)* mortgage arrears and *(b)* repossessions; [228806]

(3) if he will require banks participating in the recapitalisation scheme to provide funding to independent debt advice centres. [228807]

Ian Pearson: As part of their investment, the Government have agreed with the banks supported by the recapitalisation scheme a range of commitments. Details are available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/press_105_08.htm

Banking Supervision

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct his appointees to the boards of banks in receipt of public funds for recapitalisation to seek measures through the board to *(a)* recover the bonus payments made and *(b)* reduce the pension payments to the chief executives and chairmen of the board of those banks commensurate with their performance. [228370]

Ian Pearson: As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the capitalisation scheme. The Government expect that no cash bonuses will be paid to directors in the current year. Going forward, and to ensure that taxpayers' interests as shareholders in the bank are protected, and the performance of the company enhanced, directors' remuneration will be linked to long-term value creation and take account of risk.

The terms have been agreed on a case-by-case basis with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme, although elements are common to all participating banks.

Banks: Government Securities

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value is of Government bonds swapped for bank-owned assets under the liquidity arrangements; and what proportion has been swapped with assets of *(a)* UK banks and *(b)* other banks. [226205]

Ian Pearson: In order to provide the banking system with sufficient liquidity the Bank of England has extended the scale of its lending in its scheduled money market operations (through for example, an extension in its lending at three-month maturities). In addition, as part of the Government's plan to recapitalise the banking system, the Chancellor announced that at least £200 billion will be made available to banks under the Special Liquidity Scheme (SLS). The Bank does not publish information about the value of lending to specific counterparties but it has said that the total outstanding value of Treasury Bills lent under the SLS will be published after the end of the drawdown period, which is set to close on 30 January 2009.

Banks: Shares

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what account he takes of *(a)* changes in the share price of banks and *(b)* moral hazard in determining what public support to make available to banks; and if he will make a statement; [226555]

(2) if he will make it his policy to ensure that the moral hazard principle is applied to the activities of the banking and finance sector. [226558]

Ian Pearson: Both the Prime Minister and Chancellor of the Exchequer have made it clear that they will do whatever is necessary, whatever is right, to ensure the stability of the financial system. The Chancellor announced the comprehensive and decisive financial support package on 8 October and outlined the specific details on 13 October of the steps taken to ensure financial stability, including the terms of the agreements with those banks participating in the Government's recapitalisation scheme.

Corporation Tax

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the number of businesses in *(a)* St Albans, *(b)* Hertfordshire and *(c)* the UK which will be affected by the decision to increase the lower rate of corporation tax from April 2009. [231618]

Mr. Timms: Changes to the Small Companies Rate of Corporation Tax were made as part of a broader tax package at Budget 2007, which included the introduction of the Annual Investment Allowance. No authoritative estimate is available of the number of businesses that will be affected by the increase to the SCR from April 2009.

National Statistics for the number of companies by the rate at which corporation tax was charged are published on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/menu.htm

Counterfeit Banknotes

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many counterfeit banknotes have been seized in the UK in each of the last five years for which figures are available; and how many purported to be issued by *(a)* the Bank of England, *(b)* Scottish banks and *(c)* banks in Northern Ireland; [232811]

(2) how many counterfeit banknotes purporting to be issued by Scottish banks were seized in *(a)* England and *(b)* the rest of the UK in the most recent year for which figures are available. [232812]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England is responsible for collating statistics on counterfeits of its own banknotes and these are published on the Bank's website at:

http://www.bankofengland.co.uk/banknotes/about/counterfeits.htm

Figures for the total number of Bank of England counterfeits removed from circulation for the years 2003 to 2007 are shown in the following table.

thousand

	Numbers discovered excluding bulk seizures	*Bulk seizures by the police*
2003	366	23
2004	330	311
2005	505	38
2006	384	19
2007	290	15

Bulk seizures are notes seized by the police before they enter circulation.

Scottish and Northern Ireland banknote issuers are responsible for collating statistical information on counterfeits of their own banknote issue. The Scottish banks publish their statistics on the Committee of Scottish Clearing banks website at:

http://www.scotbanks.org.uk/banknote_counterfeit.php

The Northern Irish banknote issuers do not publish statistics on counterfeits of their banknote issue.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Betts: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's policy is on improving the energy efficiency of the buildings which it *(a)* rents and *(b)* owns; what changes there have been in the energy efficiency of such buildings in the last (i) five and (ii) 10 years; and whether his Department has adopted targets on energy efficiency improvements in the buildings it occupies over the next (A) five and (B) 10 years. [221080]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury is committed to improving energy efficiency of the Department's estate and reducing emissions year on year. Measures taken over the last year that have led to improvements in energy efficiency include adjustment of lighting system controls, switching to daytime cleaning reducing need for lighting after hours, and adjusting the temperature which heating is turned on.

There are several different ways of attempting to measure energy efficiency, none of which will capture fully significant changes to both the activity of organisations and the estate over time.

The Government's targets for energy efficiency are to increase energy efficiency per m^2 by 15 per cent. by 2010 and 30 per cent. by 2020 based on 1999-2000 levels.

The latest available data show that HM Treasury in 2007-08 achieved a 30 per cent. reduction in KWh per m^2 compared with 1999-2000, the level of the 2020 target.

Detailed information on the Treasury energy consumption by building can be found in HM Treasury annual report 2007-08.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231429]

Angela Eagle: No equipment or data have been reported lost in HM Treasury in the last 12 months.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to reach a conclusion for those affected by Equitable Life; [228593]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken as a result of the Ombudsman's investigation into Equitable Life. [228594]

Ian Pearson: *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

Lisbon Treaty

Keith Vaz: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) if he will place in the Library copies of information on each EU member state's progress towards the economic benchmarks of the Lisbon agenda; [231725]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect of the global financial turbulence on progress towards the economic benchmarks of the Lisbon agenda by 2010; and if he will make a statement; [231726]

(3) what recent progress has been made at the *(a)* national and (b) European level towards the goals of the Lisbon Agenda for 2010; what discussions on the Lisbon Agenda took place at the most recent European Council meeting; what plans the European Council has to discuss the Lisbon Agenda at its December meeting; and on what dates further meetings of the Council will take place. [231736]

Ian Pearson: Each year the European Commission publishes an Annual Progress Report on the Lisbon Strategy for Jobs and Growth, which normally contains an assessment of progress made under the Lisbon Strategy, both at national and Community level. This includes an assessment of member states' National Reform Programmes, detailing, inter alia, their progress against the 14 short-listed structural indicators. This year's report is expected in December. As with previous years, the Government will make copies of the report available to the House.

In September 2008 the UK published its National Reform Programme, setting out the UK's progress on the Lisbon goals and the wider economic context. Copies have already been placed in the Library. It is also available from the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5246.htm.

The spring 2008 European Council confirmed that the Integrated Guidelines remained valid and invited the Commission, the European Parliament and the Council to take forward work on the 10 objectives identified in the Community Lisbon Programme.

The October 2008 European Council discussed the wider economic context, and in particular the Council underlined that continued structural reform is more important than ever, to promote growth and employment in Europe. It invited the European Commission to make proposals on the necessary steps to support growth and employment, by the end of the year. It is expected that the December European Council on 11-12 December will discuss these proposals. The presidency will announce further meetings of the Council in the usual way.

Financial Services: Direct Selling

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received from consumer organisations on the use by financial services companies of automated cold-calling telephony systems that give rise to silent calls; and if he will make a statement. [225979]

Ian Pearson: The Department has no record of receiving any representations from consumer organisations on the issue of financial services companies' use of automated cold-calling telephony systems.

This is a matter for the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom). Under sections 128-130 of the Communications Act 2003, Ofcom can take enforcement action when there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person (either an individual or a legal entity) has persistently misused an electronic communications network or service. A person misuses a network or service if the effect, or likely effect, of their behaviour, is to cause unnecessary annoyance, inconvenience or anxiety to another person. Ofcom has taken action and fined companies over the past year who they found were in breach of these rules.

Icesave

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects depositors with Icesave to be able to withdraw their deposits. [226572]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The UK Financial Authorities and the Financial Services Compensation Scheme are doing everything possible to ensure Icesave depositors receive the money to which they are entitled, quickly and straightforwardly.

Details can be found in the FSCS announcement at:

www.fscs.org.uk/consumer.

Inheritance Tax

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance is issued by his Department on the application of inheritance tax to individuals who were married outside the UK. [231856]

Mr. Timms: Draft guidance about the treatment of marriages for inheritance tax purposes was published for comment on the HM Revenue and Customs' website on 20 June 2008 at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/cto/iht/iar-draftguidance.pdf.

Landfill Tax

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the calculations underlying the tax neutrality of the proposed exemption from landfill tax for contaminated soils and extensions of the land remediation relief to derelict land. [231690]

Angela Eagle: The Exchequer impacts which set out the revenue neutrality of the exemption from landfill tax for contaminated soils and the extension of land remediation relief are published in Table A.1 of the 2008 Budget Report.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for West Worcestershire of 18 September 2008 on the economy (PO reference: 1/60847/2008). [232217]

Ian Pearson: I understand that the Financial Services Secretary (Lord Myners) has replied to the hon. Member's letter.

Oil: Prices

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what forward projections he has made of the price of a barrel of oil in the next 12 months. [231894]

Mr. Timms: The most recent oil price assumption underlying the public finance projections is provided in Budget 2008. An updated projection will be provided in the forthcoming 2008 pre-Budget report.

Profits

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will consider the merits of requiring the repatriation of any profits transferred offshore by those British registered banks in receipt of support from the public purse. [226873]

Ian Pearson: As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme announced on 8 October.

This package has been designed specifically so that it protects the interests of taxpayers.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of research and development tax credits that were eligible to be claimed, but were not claimed (i) under the small and medium-sized enterprises research and development tax credits scheme, (ii) under the large companies research and development tax credits scheme and (iii) under the vaccine research relief scheme in each year since 2000. [231981]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of eligible research and development tax credits and *(b)* the monetary value of eligible research and development tax credits which will not have been claimed as a result of the time limit for making research and development claims being reduced from six to two years from 31 March 2006; and what estimate he has made of the number of companies adversely affected as a result. [231982]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations his Department has received on the operation of the research and development tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [231983]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury receives a wide range of representations from various sources on the operation of the R&D tax credit schemes.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of companies which have used Business Link's interactive tool to calculate whether they are eligible to claim research and development tax credits. [231984]

Angela Eagle: Since its launch in March 2006, Business Link's interactive tool has been used in around 8,300 instances to provide an indication of a company's eligibility to claim research and development tax credits.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate has been made of the annual cost of raising the rate of enhanced deduction from the tax bills of large companies under the research and development tax credits system from 125 per cent. to 130 per cent.; and if he will make a statement; [231985]

(2) what estimate has been made of the annual cost of raising the rate of enhanced deduction from the tax bills of small and medium sized enterprises from 150 per cent. to 175 per cent. under the research and development tax credits system; and if he will make a statement. [231996]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the annual cost of raising the rate of enhanced deductions provided by R and D tax credits are published in table A.11 in the 2008 Budget report, on the HM Treasury website:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/bud08_chaptera.pdf

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what his estimate is of the value of research and development tax credits that were *(a)* expected to be claimed and *(b)* claimed in each year since 2000; [231986]

(2) how many companies claimed tax credits under the *(a)* small and medium-sized research and development tax credits scheme, *(b)* large companies research and development tax credits scheme and *(c)* vaccine research relief scheme in each year since 2000; [231997]

(3) how many small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) received cash payments from HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) under the research and development tax credits scheme in return for losses incurred through research and development in each year since 2000; what the monetary value of cash payments made to SMEs by HMRC under the research and development tax credits scheme in return for losses incurred through research and development was in each year; and if he will make a statement; [231998]

(4) how many research and development tax credits were claimed in each year since 2000; what the monetary value was of expenditure against which research and development tax credits were claimed in each year since 2000; and what the monetary value was of research and development tax credits claimed in each year; [231999]

(5) how many research and development tax credits were claimed under the small and medium-sized enterprise (SMEs) scheme in each year since 2000; what the monetary value of expenditure against which research and development tax credits were claimed was under the SME scheme in each year since 2000 was; and what the monetary value of research and development tax credits which were claimed under the SME scheme was in each such year; [232000]

(6) how many research and development tax credits were claimed under the large company scheme in each year since 2002; what the monetary value was of expenditure against which research and development tax credits were claimed under the large company scheme in each such year; and what the value of research and development tax credits which were claimed under the large company scheme was in each such year; [232001]

(7) how many research and development tax credits were claimed under the Vaccine Research Relief scheme in each year since 2003; what the monetary value of expenditure against which research and development tax credits were claimed under the Vaccine Research Relief scheme was in each such year; and what the monetary value of research and development tax credits which were claimed under the Vaccine Research Relief scheme was in each year since 2003. [232002]

Angela Eagle: The expected costs of the research and development tax credit schemes were estimated in the regulatory impact assessments published in March 2000 and April 2002 when the schemes were introduced and are available on the research and development tax credits page of the HM Revenue and Customs website.

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/randd/index.htm

Estimates of the number of claims for research and development tax credits and the costs of support claimed are published as National Statistics on the HM Revenue and Customs website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate_tax/randdtcmenu.htm

The amounts of research and development expenditure against which tax credits were claimed are given in the following table, by scheme and year:

£ million, rounded to the nearest £10 million

	SME scheme	*Large Company scheme*	*Vaccines Research Relief*	*All*
2000-01	350	—	—	350
2001-02	860	—	—	860
2002-03	1,070	2,480	—	3,550
2003-04	1,080	4,500	[1]—	5,580
2004-05	1,090	5,260	10	6,360
2005-06	1,000	5,760	[1]—	6,760

[1] Negligible

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost was of the administration of the research and development tax credits scheme in each year since 2000; and how much was spent on *(a)* start-up costs, *(b)* publicity and marketing, *(c)* staff costs, *(d)* staff training, *(e)* evaluation and monitoring, *(f)* systems costs, *(g)* appeals and *(h)* other costs. [231987]

Angela Eagle: The costs of administering the research and development tax credits schemes are met out of HMRC's general running costs and are not separately identified. Work on research and development claims is carried out across a number of business areas and a company tax return will include a range of different tax claims and adjustments of which a research and development tax relief claim will form only part.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what the qualifying research and development expenditure threshold for the research and development tax credits system was in each year since 2000; [231988]

(2) for what reasons the qualifying research and development expenditure threshold for the research and development tax credits system was lowered from £25,000 to £10,000; and if he will make a statement. [231989]

Angela Eagle: The reduction in the minimum qualifying expenditure threshold for the R and D tax credit schemes from £25,000 to £10,000 was introduced in the Finance Act 2003. This was part of a package of improvements designed, after consultation with business, to improve the operation of the schemes and to make it easier for SMEs in particular to access the credits.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many companies' research and development tax credits claims were reviewed by HM Revenue and Customs in each year since 2000. [231990]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the average compliance cost per business for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) claiming research and development tax credits in each year since 2000, *(b)* the total compliance costs for SMEs claiming research and development tax credits in each year since 2000, *(c)* the average compliance cost per business for large companies claiming research and development tax credits in each years since 2002 and *(d)* the total compliance costs for large companies claiming research and development tax credits in each year since 2002; and if he will make a statement. [231991]

Angela Eagle: Estimates of the compliance costs for companies claiming R and D tax credits were provided in the Regulatory Impact Assessments published when the schemes were introduced and are available on research and development tax credits page of the HM Revenue and Customs website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/randd/index.htm

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* likely change in the number of companies that will apply for research and development tax credits under the small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) scheme following the extension of the scheme to cover companies with fewer than 500 employees, *(b)* likely change in the number of research and development tax credits that will be claimed under the SME scheme and *(c)* likely change in the monetary value of research and development tax credits that will be claimed under the SME scheme over the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231992]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 20 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1266W.

Revenue and Customs: Databases

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate he has made of the number of UK taxpayers whose personal details are held on HM Revenue and Customs' Taxpayer Business System; [231704]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of complaints received by HM Revenue and Customs on inaccurate personal data held on its Taxpayer Business System in each of the last four years; [231705]

(3) what estimate he has made of the proportion of UK taxpayers' personal detail entries on HM Revenue and Customs' Taxpayer Business System that contained inaccurate information in each of the last four years; [231706]

(4) what procedure governs the *(a)* alteration and *(b)* disclosure by HM Revenue and Customs staff of taxpayers' personal details held on its Taxpayer Business System; [231707]

(5) what estimate he has made of the cost of correcting inaccurate personal information held on HM Revenue and Customs' Taxpayer Business System in each of the last four years. [231708]

Mr. Timms: The Taxpayer Business Service is not a database. It is a method of accessing and amending details held elsewhere and does not itself hold personal data.

The TBS system allows records held in the central frameworks database to be viewed and amended. These frameworks hold personal details of approximately 47 million taxpayers and non-taxpayers. At any point in time, 3 million to 3.5 million records for individuals held on frameworks are inaccurate.

Information relating to the number of complaints about the state of the frameworks databases is not recorded. The cost of correcting database entries is not recorded separately.

Staff are only allowed to access the Taxpayer Business Service if they have a business need to do so. Where access rights are validated staff are able to amend the appropriate records. Staff must adhere to rigorous guidelines in relation to disclosure of data; They must establish that they have permission/legal authority to disclose it, and that the requestor has entitlement/legal right to receive it.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff of each *(a)* sex and *(b)* grade were employed at the Inland Revenue and HM Customs and Excise offices (i) Tyler's House, (ii) Dencora Court, (iii) Alexander House, (iv) Portcullis House, (v) Shoeburyness Computer Complex, (vi) Kelting House in Southend-on-Sea, (vii) Kelting House, Basildon and (viii) Regent House, Basildon on (A) 31 March 2000, (B) 31 March 2002 and (C) 31 March 2004. [222371]

Mr. Timms: Tyler's House and Dencora Court are the same building and there is no Kelting House in Southend on Sea.

Data for (A) 31 March 2000 is not retained by HMRC.

Subject to those provisos, the numbers of staff of each sex and grade in these buildings on (B) 31 March 2002 and (C) 31 March 2004 are as follows:

Tyler's House

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002—160 female, 89 male

(C) 31 March 2004—175 female, 96 male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	11
Senior Officer	7
Higher Officer	29
Officer	62
Assistant Officer	79
Admin Assistant	57
Total	249

(C) 31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	8
Senior Officer	9
Higher Officer	32
Officer	76
Assistant Officer	82
Admin Assistant	60
Total	271

Alexander House

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002—1,112 female, 805 male

C) 31 March 2004—1,065 female, 762 male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
SCS	4
Grade 6	10
Grade 7	28
Senior Officer	214
Higher Officer	362
Officer	404
Assistant Officer	434
Admin Assistant	461
Total	1,917

(C) 31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
SCS	3
Grade 6	7
Grade 7	29
Band T/Fast Stream	1
Senior Officer	235
Higher Officer	337
Officer	377
Assistant Officer	454
Admin Assistant	384
Total	1,827

Portcullis House, Southend

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002—131 female, 125 male

(C) 31 March 2004—149 female, 133 male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
SCS	3
Grade 6	3
Grade 7	7
Senior Officer	52
Higher Officer	93
Officer	61
Assistant Officer	34
Admin Assistant	3
Total	256

(C) 31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
SCS	2
Grade 6	4
Grade 7	11
Senior Officer	59
Higher Officer	101
Officer	56
Assistant Officer	46
Admin Assistant	3
Total	282

Shoeburyness Computer Complex

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002—one female, one male

(C) 31 March 2004—two female, three male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
Higher Officer	1
Officer	1
Total	2

31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
Oracle 7	1
Senior Officer	2
Higher Officer	1
Officer	1
Total	5

Kelting House, Basildon

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2001—30 female, five male

(B) 31 March 2002—27 female, four male

(C) 31 March 2004—30 female, four male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
Senior Officer	1
Higher Officer	5
Officer	7
Assistant Officer	11
Admin Assistant	7
Total	31

(C) 31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
Senior Officer	1
Higher Officer	4
Officer	8
Assistant Officer	13
Admin Assistant	8
Total	34

Regent House, Basildon

Gender:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002—16 female, 15 male

(C) 31 March 2004—10 female, 12 male

Grade:

(A) 31 March 2000—not available

(B) 31 March 2002

Grade	*Headcount*
Senior Officer	4
Higher Officer	13
Officer	8
Assistant Officer	4
Admin Assistant	2
Total	31

(C) 31 March 2004

Grade	*Headcount*
Senior Officer	4
Higher Officer	10
Officer	5
Assistant Officer	2
Admin Assistant	1
Total	22

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Sarah Teather: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many of those purchasing a residential property since the zero-rate of stamp duty land tax for zero-carbon homes came into effect have been liable for stamp duty land tax; [231786]

(2) how many new homes have qualified for zero-rate stamp duty for zero-carbon homes since the zero-rate was introduced. [231788]

Ian Pearson: Between October 2007, when the SDLT relief for zero-carbon homes was introduced, and September 2008 15 homes have qualified for the relief.

The purpose of the tax relief is to provide more new energy efficient technologies in homes. The Government expect the numbers of qualifying homes to be low in the first few years, but to rise as more properties eligible to claim the relief are developed. Information on property transactions and SDLT receipts can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats

Taxation: Self-Assessment

Mr. Gauke: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs offices there are which *(a)* accept completed tax returns delivered in person and *(b)* are able to provide a stamped receipt to persons filing such tax returns. [232747]

Mr. Timms: HMRC have a network of 279 Inquiry Centres. Customers can hand returns in to all of them.

Since 2005 HMRC has adopted a consistent national approach of not issuing receipts for returns handed in to Inquiry Centres. Checking and issuing receipts for returns diverted staff from serving those that need advice and help to complete their forms. This has a particular impact around the SA filing deadline when many hundreds of thousands of tax returns are handed in.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to address the humanitarian situation in Afghanistan, with particular reference to the drought; and if he will make a statement. [231462]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been swift in responding to the worsening humanitarian situation, providing £8 million to the World Food Programme's (WFP) 2008-09 humanitarian appeals. Our support will help the WFP provide food assistance to an average of 1.8 million drought-afflicted people each month until the 2009 harvest. This is in addition to £5.5 million for an agricultural recovery programme providing seeds and fertiliser for the most vulnerable farmers in drought-afflicted regions up to September 2009.

Burma: International Assistance

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 2W, on Burma: international assistance, what progress has been made since his letter of 9th July to like-minded development Ministers on support to the UN appeal for Burma. [230636]

Mr. Michael Foster: The United Nations (UN) appeal for Burma on the 10 July was set at US $464 million. As of 27 October, donors had committed US $257.6 million. It is therefore now 55 per cent. funded.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228751]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During the financial year 2007-08, a total of 213 new recruits joined the Department for International Development (DFID). Of these, 116 were Home Civil Servants (HCS), and 97 were Staff Appointed in Country (SAIC) recruited locally to work in our network of offices overseas on local terms and conditions of service.

Details of the number of staff aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 who joined DFID in the 2007 to 2008 financial year, and their equivalent percentage in each case, of all recruits, are shown in the following table.

New starts to DFID in 2007-08

	Age 55 or below		*Age over 55*		*Age over 60*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
HCS	113	53.1	3	1.4	0	0.0	116
SAIC	97	45.5	0	0.0	0	0.0	97
Total	210	98.6	3	1.4	0	0.0	213

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by his Department to provide such courses in each year. [230509]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to provide the amount spent by the Department for International Development (DFID) on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year.

Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the amount spent on training courses is not held centrally.

Developing Countries: Education

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he plans to take to prioritise funding for education in conflict-affected fragile states; and if he will make a statement. [231885]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government's Education Beyond Borders initiative, announced on 5 April 2007, set out the Department for International Development's (DFID) plans for delivering education to children affected by conflict or living in fragile states. It includes a £20 million grant to UNICEF to deliver education in emergency, conflict and post-crisis countries; financial support to education in conflict and post-conflict states including Nepal (£60 million to 2015), Burundi (£6 million over three years), Sierra Leone (£9 million over four years) and Somalia (£9 million over three years); support for the education recovery programme in Liberia, via the multi-donor Fast Track Catalytic Fund; if conditions permit, £50 million for education in the Democratic Republic of Congo, further support to education in Afghanistan via the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund; and support to the Education for All Fast Track Initiative to ensure that support is delivered effectively and flexibly to fragile, conflict and post-conflict states.

DFID Country Offices have been working to scale up our education support in partner countries, including those in countries under the Education Beyond Borders initiative, DFID support will help poor countries with significant numbers of out of school primary aged children and seek to help hard to reach children receive a basic education.

Gaza: Humanitarian Aid

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the impact of the humanitarian assistance for Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [231465]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: We remain very concerned by the humanitarian situation in Gaza. We monitor it closely through humanitarian agencies and NGOs. Ongoing restrictions on Gaza's crossings impact on the provision of humanitarian services, although assistance funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) does get through to those that need it.

DFID assesses the impact of its humanitarian funding for Palestinian refugees in Gaza through regular reporting from the implementing agency, the UN's Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (UNRWA). Our funding supports the delivery of essential services (particularly health care and education) by UNRWA to registered refugees in Gaza, who are the majority of the population. In 2008, we have provided £19 million to UNRWA.

In March 2008, DFID provided £2 million to the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) for its work in the Occupied Palestinian Territories. This helped restore basic services in Gaza such as water, waste water and hospital infrastructure damaged during hostilities, thus reducing public health risks. Our earlier funding for the European Commission's TIM/PEGASE mechanism supported the provision of emergency medical and social services to the population of Gaza and the West Bank and paid salaries of key public sector workers.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he will respond to the letter to him dated 10 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton with regard to Dr. J. Sherwin. [231191]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A reply to the letter from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton has been issued.

Overseas Aid: Education

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much of the education funding announced as part of the Education Beyond Borders initiative in April 2007 has been disbursed to date. [228530]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The 'Education Beyond Borders' initiative included DFID's plans for delivering education to children affected by conflict or living in fragile states. For those countries specifically listed in the initiative, DFID support is as follows:

Countries listed in 'Education Beyond Borders' initiative	*DFID support*
Afghanistan	Expenditure of £55 million in 2007-08 and £60 million in 2008-09 disbursed to the World Bank account for the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund, which meets the cost of 100,000 teachers.
Burundi	In 2007-08, direct bilateral expenditure on education was £55,000. In 2008, we have disbursed £794,000 as requested by the government of Burundi of £6 million being provided end 2007 to end 2010 through the Pooled Fund for education.
Democratic Republic of Congo	In 2007-08, direct bilateral expenditure on education was £82,000 and in 2008-09 to date £155,000 with a further £6.6 million of forecast expenditure under our contribution of £10.41 million to first phase of Access to Primary Education (£55 million over five years) through the multi-donor Trust Fund, managed by the World Bank, and some £3 million of support 2008-09 through the Multi-Donor Trust Fund, managed by UNDP, that goes to education.
Liberia	Support was to have been provided through the Education for All Fast Track Initiative (FTI). However the FTI has not yet provided support as Liberia has been allocated US$12 million from the Transition Fund managed by UNICEF.
Nepal	Since 2007, approximately £10.5 million has been disbursed in support of education. This is part of our planned contribution of £20 million for the Education for All programme 2004-09.
Sierra Leone	In 2007-08, direct bilateral expenditure on education was £3.6 million. £10 million disbursed of £15 million, in 2008, for Poverty Reduction Budget Support, of which £3 million supports education, and £750,000 fully disbursed, in 2008, for the support for Teachers' Census programme through the Pooled Fund for Education.
Somalia	In 2007-08, direct bilateral expenditure on education was £2 million. Providing £6 million to the Strategic Partnership for Education Recovery and Development programme 2006-10 of which £1 million has been disbursed in 2008-09 and £1.9 million through the Africa Educational Trust of which £256,000 has been disbursed in 2008-09. Also, since 2007, some £537,000 of support to Save the Children for their education work in Hiraan.

The initiative included support to the Education for All fast track initiative (FTI) to support fragile, conflict and post-conflict states. In September 2008, in New York, the UK announced a further contribution to the FTI of £50 million to add to our existing commitment of £150 million.

The initiative also announced a £20 million grant through UNICEF to help deliver education in emergency, conflict and post-crisis countries. To ensure that this support will have maximum impact, we have recently agreed a common monitoring and evaluation framework with UNICEF and partners to align the grant with the multi-donor Transition Fund held by UNICEF and expect to make disbursements shortly. In addition, DFID is providing UNICEF with £4 million per year to build UNICEF's capacity in humanitarian response, including in the education sector. DFID has worked with UNICEF to ensure that this includes the full funding of a project setting up a roster of education experts for deployment in emergencies.

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 119W, on Pakistan: overseas aid, what the key performance indicators are for each of the 10 programmes referred to. [230247]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: For each of the 10 programmes referred to we will monitor progress in the following areas:

General Budget Support

Macro economic policy.

Government expenditure on poverty related activities.

Education sector performance.

Implementation of commitments on human rights.

Improvements in public financial management.

Pakistan Earthquake Reconstruction and Rehabilitation

Availability of finance for landless families to buy plots for house-building.

Immunisation for children under two years.

Proportion of population having access to safe water and improved sanitation services.

Epidemics averted by a disease early warning system.

Proportion of poor and vulnerable people with access to education and health services.

Gross and net school enrolment rates.

National Health Facility

Contraceptive prevalence rates among married women.

Coverage of fully immunised children.

Percentage of female sex workers using a condom during last sex act (also relevant for the HIV/AIDS programme).

Percentage of injecting drug users always using new syringe (also relevant for the HIV/AIDS programme).

TB case detection rate.

TB treatment success rate.

Malaria prevalence rates (passive case detection).

Prevalence of underweight children.

Strengthening Education in Pakistan:

Access to education (particularly for grades 0 to grade 12.)

Transition of girls from primary to middle schools in the public sector.

Drop-out and completion rates among girls enrolled in grades 6 to 10.

Governance and institutional performance.

Maternal and Newborn Health

Proportion of births attended by skilled birth attendants.

Proportion of births in public/private health facilities.

Proportion of pregnant women visiting health facility for pre-natal consultation.

Proportion of rural health centres providing 24/7 basic, and district hospitals providing 24/7 comprehensive emergency obstetric and neonatal care services.

Maternal and neonatal case fatality rates in health facilities.

Proportion of population in reproductive age group satisfied with public reproductive and child health services.

Financial Inclusion Programme

Number of microfinance borrowers.

Proportion of women with access to formal or semi-formal financial services.

Proportion of young people with access to formal or semi-formal financial services.

Proportion of female managers in the microfinance industry.

Outreach of financial services to underserved areas.

Increase in small enterprise credit.

Microfinance clients' interest savings.

Polio Programme

Number of wild polio virus cases reported.

Non-polio Acute Flaccid Paralysis (AFP) cases per 100,000 children less than 15 years of age during 2008 and 2009.

HIV/AIDS Programme

Percentage of blood transfusions in public sector that are screened for HIV, Hepatitis B and C.

Percentage of injecting drug users always using new syringe in last month (this indicator is also relevant for the NHF programme above).

Percentage of female sex workers using a condom during last sex act (this indicator is also relevant for the NHF programme above).

Humanitarian Assistance to Flood Victims and Internally Displaced People

Demonstrable reductions in mortality and morbidity following DFID-funded interventions in camps.

Reductions in the numbers of reported human rights abuses or abductions following DFID-funded interventions.

Cluster approach is adopted and maintained where appropriate.

Programmes are implemented in concurrence with DFID Humanitarian policy.

Devolved Social Services Programme Financial Support

Proportion of deliveries conducted by trained health professionals.

Antenatal care services.

Literacy and primary education rates.

Proportion of lowest income quintile accessing services.

Gender ratios for accessing basic health units.

Proportion of fully immunised children in rural areas.

Female gross enrolment rates for primary education.

Enrolment rates for handicapped children.

Family planning services for married women.

Water sources.

Bed-occupancy rates.

Per-capita utilisation of health facilities.

Absenteeism rates for doctors and teachers.

Number of non-functional schemes made functional.

Increase in capacity to deliver basic social services at provincial and local government levels.

Availability and use of funds for operation and maintenance of service delivery (proxy).

Facility staffing and service delivery rationalisation (proxy).

Allocations and expenditures provincial level social sectors.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much UK development aid was given to Pakistan in each year since 2000. [232233]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Details of the UK's bilateral assistance and imputed multilateral assistance to Pakistan since 2000 are laid out in the following tables.

Table 1: UK total bilateral gross public expenditure on development, 2000-01 to 2007-08, Pakistan

	£000
2000-01	15,890
2001-02	44,838
2002-03	46,852
2003-04	66,299
2004-05	55,277
2005-06	97,688
2006-07	118,150
2007-08	88,145

Table 2: Imputed UK share of multilateral official development assistance (ODA), 2000-01 to 2006-07, Pakistan

	£000
2000-01	3,072
2001-02	25,063
2002-03	39,605
2003-04	14,324
2004-05	13,783
2005-06	56,655
2006-07	20,812

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230604]

Mr. Michael Foster: It is not possible, without incurring disproportionate costs, to provide the amount spent on Plain English Campaign training courses by the Department for International Development for its staff in each year since 2005.

Sub-departments and overseas offices within DFID are responsible for arranging and financing staff training. Information on the amount spent on training courses is not held centrally.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231121]

Mr. Michael Foster: Since 2005 the Department for International Development (DFID) has submitted one document to the Plain English Campaign, which achieved crystal mark status. This was the popular version of the 2006 White Paper—"Eliminating world poverty: making governance work for the poor".

Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what use his Department makes of data obtained from earth observation satellites; and what payment is made for such data where applicable. [230449]

Mr. Thomas: During humanitarian crises DFID occasionally makes use of UNOSAT the operational satellite applications programme of the UN Institute for Training and Research. UNOSAT provides the international community with access to satellite imagery via the internet and free of charge. During the Georgia-Russia conflict in August imagery provided by UNOSAT highlighted the deleterious impact of hostilities on civilian infrastructure and the environment.

Under the multi-donor Congo Basin Forest Fund (CBFF), to which the UK is contributing £50 million out of a total fund value to date of £100 million, DFID has allocated an additional £8 million for start-up projects that will promote forest conservation in the Congo Basin region. One of these projects, with a budget of £1.14 million, involves a high-resolution camera that will be fixed to a Brazilian satellite. This camera will allow for more effective monitoring of forest use. Another project will allocate up to £1.5 million for the development of a satellite data receiver in central Africa which will expand the knowledge base about forest use and make images easily accessible to regional governments and civil society.

Stabilisation Unit

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which Minister is responsible for the stabilisation unit. [231750]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Stabilisation Unit reports through the Department for the International Development (DFID), Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) to the National Security, International Relations and Development (Overseas and Development) Committee which is chaired by my right hon. Friend, the Foreign Secretary. Strategic direction at official level is provided by quarterly meetings of the three Departments at director level. The unit is accountable administratively for its staff and finances to DFID's Permanent Secretary.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Infant Mortality

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the progress being made towards meeting the fourth Millennium Development Goal on infant mortality in sub-Saharan Africa. [230571]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The target for Millennium Development Goal Four (MDG 4) is to reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate. The Department for International Development (DFID) recognises that MDG 4 is off track in sub-Saharan Africa, as shown by data published in the United Nations' (UN) latest MDG report. In 1990 the under-five mortality rate was 184 per 1,000, and by 2006 it had only fallen to 157 (compared with the 2015 target of 61). The MDG report notes that

> "despite progress, deaths of under five children remain unacceptably high".

Although MDG 4 is off track there have been areas of progress and the MDG is achievable by 2015 if action is taken now to implement proven interventions. DFID's commitments include to provide 20 million insecticide treated bed nets in the next three years as part of the fight against malaria, and to spend £6 billion on health systems and services between 2008 and 2015, a significant proportion of which will be in Africa.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Poverty

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many poor people there were in sub-Saharan Africa in 1990; and what estimate he has made of the projected number in 2015. [230569]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The number of poor people in sub-Saharan Africa in 1990, using the international poverty line ($1.25 at day at 2005 purchasing power parities), was estimated at 284 million. While the number below this international poverty line had risen to 384 million by 2005, this actually represented a drop in the proportion of poor in the total population of sub-Saharan Africa from 55 per cent. in 1990 to 50 per cent. 2005.

The accepted source for data of this sort is the World Bank data and research services.

Further information is available on the World Bank website:

http://econ.worldbank.org/WBSITE/EXTERNAL/EXTDEC/EXTRESEARCH/0,,contentMDK:21882162~pagePK:64165401~piPK:64165026~theSitePK:469382.00.html

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Business: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on promoting and raising awareness of the business rates rate relief scheme in the last financial year. [231019]

John Healey: It is for local authorities to promote the scheme to local businesses.

Community Allowances

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions she has had with the Department for Work and Pensions on community allowance pilots. [231484]

Mr. Khan: We jointly announced with the Department for Work and Pensions in "Communities in Control: real people, real power" (CM7427) that the CREATE consortium could pilot the community allowance within the existing benefits and permitted work structure. This was part of ongoing discussions with the Department for Work and Pensions to explore how to promote paid community work for out of work benefit claimants to improve their chances of moving into work and benefit the community in which they live.

Cornwall

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on bringing the Cornish under the terms of the Framework Convention on National Minorities. [231597]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government has no record of any representations received during the last year on bringing the Cornish under the terms of the Framework Convention for the Protection of National Minorities. The Government's position on this matter was set out by my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) in response to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 6 March 2007, *Official Report*, columns 1871-72W.

Council Housing: Construction

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities built council houses in 2007; and how many houses were completed by each authority in that year. [232353]

Margaret Beckett: The 11 local authorities which built council dwellings in 2007-08 were: Durham, Bolton, Blackpool UA, Preston, South Holland, Shrewsbury and Atcham, South Shropshire, Broadland, Hillingdon, Wandsworth, Ashford.

The following table shows the total number of dwellings completed by each local authority:

Local authority	*Number of council dwellings completed in 2007-08*
Durham	99
Bolton	22
Blackpool UA	1
Preston	87
South Holland	5
Shrewsbury and Atcham	7
South Shropshire	2
Broadland	40
Hillingdon	30
Wandsworth	4
Ashford	17

Source:
New build completions from P2 quarterly returns submitted by local authorities and the National House-Building Council (NHBC). The local authority level figures are as reported and do not include estimates for missing returns.

Council Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's local authority liaison meeting of 23 July 2008, what assessment *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission has made of the effect on local authority costs of council tax backdating. [230413]

John Healey: No assessment has been made by Communities and Local Government, or the Audit Commission, of the effect of council tax backdating on local authority costs.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the likely maximum percentage rise in council tax in 2009-10 for a local authority to avoid capping. [230537]

John Healey: No decisions have been taken on capping principles in 2009-10.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what progress has been made on the research by the Roger Tym Partnership/Three Dragons on council tax and empty properties; and whether an interim or final report has been submitted to her Department. [230718]

John Healey: An interim report was not part of the research specification. Communities and Local Government are currently working with the Roger Tym Partnership/ Three Dragons in finalising the report of their work.

Council Tax: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the maximum period of residency is for a second adult in a household before that dwelling ceases to qualify for a single person's council tax discount; and what the process is for assessing residency in such cases. [230804]

John Healey: There is no maximum period. A dwelling ceases to qualify for the single person's discount when it becomes the sole or main residence of a second adult, unless that second adult falls to be disregarded for these purposes under schedule 1 to the Local Government Finance Act 1992. It is for the billing authority to assess residency in such cases.

Council Tax: Valuation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency continues to use property information from Rightmove.co.uk plc for council tax valuations and revaluations. [230879]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency accesses information held by Rightmove.co.uk plc as a cost-effective means of gathering facts about properties to support its work. This work includes maintaining council tax valuation lists, but (does not currently include revaluation) as there is no council tax revaluation taking place in England.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost to her Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [231685]

Mr. Khan: The Department does not record office facilities costs broken down by individual business area or unit and therefore the information requested is not available.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many external consultants supplying services to her Department under contract. [231683]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for her Department. [231684]

Mr. Khan: As at 29 October, there are 21 full-time equivalent press officers in the Department's communications directorate.

The hon. Member may wish to refer to The White Book, published by COI. This is available in the Library of the House and contains a listing for members of the Department's communications directorate. The book is updated twice yearly.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many page hits from how many visitors her Department's website received in 2007-08. [231686]

Mr. Khan: The information requested is as follows:

	Page views	*Unique visitors*
April 2007	2,625,967	238,454
November 2007	2,880,443	406,220
December 2007	2,075,505	315,270
January 2008	2,903,445	430,707
February 2008	2,601,167	392,968
March 2008	2,156,194	341,663

Note:

We are unable to provide figures for May to October 2007, due to the impact of work associated with the relaunch of the Department's website in August 2007.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of maintaining the Departmental website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast cost is for maintaining websites within her responsibility in 2008-09. [231687]

Mr. Khan: We do not hold the information in the format required. The Department pays for its intranet, corporate site and info4local on the same contracts and is not able to break this cost down further. Across all three websites we paid £412,094 in 2007-08 for annual hosting charges, licensing, application support and maintenance.

For information relating to the relaunch of the Department's website in August 2007, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Gloucester (Mr. Dhanda) on 20 May 2008, *Official Report*, columns 264-65W.

Costs for 2008-09 have not yet been finalised.

Departmental Procurement

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 303W, on departmental procurement, (1) for what purposes the Deputy Prime Minister's Office used *(a)* MC Chauffeurs and *(b)* Carlson Wagonlit Travel; [230512]

(2) what the cost of goods and services purchased from Supplier No. *(a)* 405303, *(b)* 411763 and *(c)* 402446 was during the period that the Deputy Prime Minister's Office existed as a Government department; [230513]

(3) how much was spent by the Deputy Prime Minister's Office on the Mandarin Oriental Prague; and on what dates the expenditure was incurred; [230514]

(4) what the cost of goods and services purchased from Company Barclaycard was during the period that the Deputy Prime Minister's Office existed as a Government department. [230519]

Mr. Khan: During the time that the Deputy Prime Minister's Office (DPMO) existed as a separate Government Department:

(a) MC Chauffeurs was used for travel on official business;

(b) Carlson Wagonlit Travel provided travel agency services to DPMO for international travel on official business;

(c) Goods and services supplied by the following vendors were:

Supplier number	*Service*	*Cost (£)*
405303	To provide refreshments for official receptions	2,711.90
411763	To provide refreshments following an address to Parliament given by Kofi Annan, former Secretary General of the UN	200.22
402446	For travel by officials on official business	9,041.54

(d) The Office paid £1,985.33 to the Mandarin Oriental Prague for accommodation in connection with a visit to the Czech Republic at the request of the then Prime Minister;

(e) The total cost of goods and services purchased via company Barclaycard was £52,078.16. This was subsequently allocated to appropriate budget headings in the resource accounts for DPMO for the appropriate year.

The Deputy Prime Minister undertook a considerable amount of foreign travel on behalf of the then Prime Minister. He also met a considerable number of visitors from foreign governments and held a number of official receptions. Most of the costs covered by these vendors were incurred undertaking these roles, including the company Barclaycard costs. All expenditure incurred by DPMO was in line with guidelines in Managing Public Money.

Departmental Public Participation

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of her Department's proposed expenditure on citizens' juries in the *(a)* present and *(b)* next two financial years. [230322]

Mr. Khan: The Department currently has no plans for citizens' juries in this financial year or the next two.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many civil servants in her Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229142]

Mr. Khan: The Department's personnel records do not include information on routes of entry into the civil service for all staff. To collect this information would entail disproportionate cost.

Over the past five years, the Department has recruited, on average, a total of 15 civil servants per year through the fast stream.

Statistics on intake into the fast stream as a whole are published annually at

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/reports/faststream.

Copies are available in the Library of the House.

East of England Plan

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the projected cost is of the East of England Plan Review to 2031. [232256]

Mr. Khan: It is not possible to give an accurate projection of the cost of the East of England Plan Review to 2031 since so much relies on the input of partner local authorities and other agencies and organisations.

The initial stages of the review are the responsibility of the East of England Regional Assembly, which began this work in summer 2008. This work will carry through to 2009-10 when EERA will submit a draft revision of the Regional Spatial Strategy to the Secretary of State. EERA's business plan indicates that the cost of the regional planning function for 2008-09 will be £988,320, including staff costs, service level agreements with local authorities, studies, public consultation and promotion. However, this includes all the activities of the regional planning body, including monitoring and implementation of the RSS and other regional planning work, as well as the Regional Spatial Strategy review.

An estimate of the costs to the Government office of the latter stages of the process is not available at this stage.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the cost of producing the East of England Plan published in May 2008 was. [232257]

Mr. Khan: The production of the East of England Plan is the culmination of work which started in 2001 and in its initial stages was led by the East of England Regional Assembly. The production of the plan was a broad participatory exercise and, hence, is not easily amenable to costing. For example, significant input was provided by the local authorities within the region.

The latter stages from receipt of the Panel Report involving Strategic Environmental Assessment, Habitats Regulations Assessment, consultation on the Secretary of State's Proposed Changes (and Further Proposed Changes) and publication of finalised plan were carried out by the Government office for the east of England. Excluding staff costs, total costs were £360,000, or just under six and a halfpence for every resident of the region.

Eco-towns

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what publications related to the eco-towns programme her Department has funded; and on what date each such document was published. [230301]

Margaret Beckett: For information on the Department's publications I refer the hon. Member to the Department's website, where all our publications are published electronically, including those related to eco-towns at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/corporate/publications/all/

Additionally, the Department has provided funding to Shelter to assist them in publishing their independent pamphlets "eco-town—facts" on potential eco-town locations. These provide information about the housing situation in and around potential eco-town locations and are available on Shelter's website at:

http://england.shelter.org.uk/housing_issues/ecotowns

Shelter inform us that their publications for the following locations were published on the following dates: Pennbury (27 July 2008); Weston Otmoor (29 July 2008), North East Elsenham (31 July 2008); Middle Quinton (18 August 2008); Rushcliffe (11 September 2008); Rossington (13 October 2008); Whitehill-Bordon (17 October 2008); and Marston Vale and St. Austell (22 October 2008).

We have also provided funding to the Town and Country Planning Association (TCPA) to look at the practical application of the key sustainability and development criteria for eco-towns, and as part of this they produced a scoping report and are also producing worksheets. These publications have been published on the TCPA's website at:

http://www.tcpa.org.uk/ecotowns.asp

Empty Dwelling Management Orders

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Empty Property Management Orders were issued in each local authority in each year since they were introduced. [231892]

Margaret Beckett: To date, 15 Interim Empty Dwelling Management Orders (EDMOs) have been approved by the Residential Property Tribunal Service (RPTS) since the legislation came into effect in April 2006. Full details are set out in the following table:

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
South Oxfordshire District Council	1	—
Norwich City Council	1	2
Peterborough City Council	1	—
Wychavon District Council	1	—
London Borough of Hounslow	1	—
London Borough of Lewisham	5	—
Swale Borough Council	1	—
Carlisle District Council	1	—

Local authority	*2007*	*2008*
London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham	—	1
Total	12	3

Empty Property: Non-domestic Rates

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the effect of the increase in empty property business rates on small self-administered pension schemes which own office space. [230690]

John Healey: There has not been a specific assessment of the impact of empty property rates on self administered pension schemes. However, an impact assessment detailing the impact of the empty property reforms was published by Communities and Local Government in May 2007 accompanying the introduction of the Rating (Empty Properties) Bill and a further assessment was laid before this House on 26 February accompanying the Non-Domestic Rating (Unoccupied Property) (England) Regulations 2008—Number: 386.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the latest estimate is of the expected yearly increase in net revenue arising from the changes to empty property business rates. [230692]

John Healey: The information requested was published in the 2007 Budget. It is estimated that the reform of relief from business rates in respect of empty property will increase net tax yields by £950 million in 2008-09 and by £900 million in 2009-10 (and around £900 million thereafter). This estimate reflects the increase in yield from rates, offset against reduced corporation tax yield (because rates are a legitimate deduction from corporation tax) and changes in other tax yields resulting from increased transactions and associated behaviour.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans her Department has to obtain information from local authorities on the effect of the new levels of empty property business rates. [230706]

John Healey: The Government have asked local authorities, as well as the VOA, to provide information provided on possible avoidance of empty property rates over the course of the first year of the reforms. The information will be based on the informed judgment of individual officers and is being gathered as a broad indicator of the scale of possible avoidance activity and not a detailed survey. There is no suggestion the activity in question is unlawful and we will set out in an appropriate form our general findings in due course.

Mr. Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will consider removing business rate charges from empty properties; and if she will make a statement. [230981]

John Healey: Government have no current plans to reverse the changes to empty property rate relief introduced from 1 April 2008. However, as with all taxes, we will keep the position under review. Decisions on taxes are a matter for the Chancellor.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether empty properties will be liable for *(a)* supplementary business rates and *(b)* business improvement districts' levy. [231018]

John Healey: It is for those developing BID proposals to decide whether empty properties should be liable to pay the BID levy. Primary legislation is needed to give effect to the Government's proposals for Business Rate Supplements set out in "Business rate supplements: a White Paper", published in October 2007. The Government's consultation paper "Preparing Britain for the Future—the Draft Legislative Programme 2008-09" included the Business Rate Supplements Bill in its plans for legislation in next year's parliamentary Session. The Government are consulting on technical issues before finalising detailed arrangements.

Fire Services: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals belong to the *(a)* new and *(b)* old Fire Service Pension Scheme. [232834]

Mr. Khan: The Firefighters' Pension Schemes are administered by English fire and rescue authorities and, on the basis of returns from authorities, in 2007-08 there were 29,000 active and 35,000 pensioner members of the 1992 Firefighters' Pension Scheme and 5,700 active members of the 2006 scheme, with no pensioner members.

Government Offices For The Regions

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of the Government Offices for the Regions Network corporate plan. [229569]

Mr. Khan: I can confirm that a copy of the network corporate plan 2008-11 for the Government office network has been placed in the Library of the House.

Home Information Packs

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals have been prosecuted for failure to comply with home information pack duties under the Housing Act 2004 and associated secondary legislation. [232669]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 230W.

Housing: Low Incomes

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Valuation Office Agency will have access to the National Register of Social Housing. [230728]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency has not had, and does not have, direct access to this register; there are no plans for such access to be given.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in Eastbourne constituency in each of the last 10 years. [231849]

Margaret Beckett: Information on affordable homes by constituency is not available. The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in Eastbourne local authority for each year from 1997-98. The figures include social rent and intermediate affordable housing new build; they exclude affordable housing acquisitions.

New build affordable homes in Eastbourne local authority

	New affordable homes—new build
1997-98	150
1998-99	110
1999-2000	0
2000-01	50
2001-02	30
2002-03	20
2003-04	50
2004-05	0
2005-06	40
2006-07	40

Sources:
Housing Corporation and returns from local authorities to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Not all affordable housing is provided by new build completions as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2006-07, an additional 30 affordable homes in Eastbourne local authority were provided by acquisitions which are not included in the figure above.

Housing: Regeneration

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the financial irregularities were that resulted in fines from the European Commission in relation to regeneration schemes. [230453]

John Healey: There has been one financial correction from the European Commission. In 2007, the Commission suspended payments on the North West's 2000-06, ERDF Objective 2 and urban programmes. The Commission applied programme-wide corrections on grounds that aspects of programme management undertaken by the Government Office had not complied sufficiently with the Commission's regulations. The outcome was a financial correction of €25 million which represented less than 4 per cent. of these programme's value. The Department accounted for the correction in the financial year, 2007-08.

Housing: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate has been made by *(a)* her Department and *(b)* the Audit Commission of the level and number of fraudulent claims of council tax (i) second homes discount, (ii) single person discount and (iii) empty homes discount. [230544]

John Healey: We have not made estimates of the number of fraudulent claims for any type of council tax discount.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reasons a domestic dwelling would be allocated a property details activity code of *(a)* 30, *(b)* 60 and *(c)* 70 by the Valuation Office Agency as part of its council tax valuation work. [230663]

John Healey: The Valuation Office Agency's Instructions and Advice (CTR(E) IA 310105) states that code 30 is allocated when data have been obtained from details provided by the occupier or owner. Code 60 is allocated where data are obtained from details supplied by the billing authority or agent. Code 70 is allocated when data are obtained by a physical inspection of the property.

Infrastructure Planning Commission: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated annual budget of the Infrastructure Planning Commission will be in each of the next three years. [230681]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 31 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 713W, given to the hon. Member for North Cornwall (Dan Rogerson).

Landfill Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated gross cost to local authorities of landfill tax was in the last year for which figures are available. [230799]

John Healey: Local authorities do not record separately the amount spent on landfill tax in the returns which councils submit to the Government.

Licensed Premises: Non-domestic Rates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's policy is on whether licensed premises which remain open late should be liable for additional sites rates payments. [229430]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I understand the hon. Member's question relates to a matter concerning a licence issued under the Licensing Act 2003 which is a matter for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport.

Lifting the Burdens Task Force

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when the Lifting the Burdens Task Force will conclude its work; and what the timetable is for implementation of its recommendations. [230661]

John Healey: The Lifting the Burdens Task Force will conclude its programme of work in November with the publication of their final report.

Individual Department's responses to the recommendations made so far by the task force's are available at

http://www.communities.gov.uk/liftingburdens/publications/responses/.

Progress on implementing recommendations will form part of the task force's final report.

The CLG response to the task force's review of housing and planning was to delete nine best value performance indicators (BVPIs) for 2007-08. The recommendations made in the task force's report on financial management burdens are still being considered.

Local Authorities: Data Protection

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* rights and *(b)* powers councillors have to access information held by the local authority to which they have been elected. [230411]

John Healey: A councillor has the same rights to information held by a local authority as a member of the public, under the Freedom of Information Act. In addition, councillors have a right under the Local Government Act 1972 to inspect documents in the local authority's possession. Exceptions to this right do exist, for instance, information relating to individuals. Finally councillors have a common law right to access any material where this is necessary for them to discharge their duties as a councillor, although a request for such information may be subject to a 'need to know' test.

Local Authorities: Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice she has issued to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* housing associations on promoting the use of (i) credit and (ii) debit cards to their tenants for the payment of (A) monthly rent payments and (B) rent arrears. [231655]

Margaret Beckett: The Department published "Improving the Effectiveness of Rent Arrears Management: Good Practice Guidance" in June 2005. It is aimed at all social landlords and all levels of a landlord's rent arrears management service.

On rent arrears, the guidance makes no explicit reference to debit or credit cards. It stresses the value of preventative measures. It advises landlords, among other things, to ensure that arrears repayment arrangements are realistic by undertaking with the tenant a detailed financial assessment of his or her income and expenditure.

On rent payment, the guidance advises that landlords should provide a diverse range of methods for tenants to pay their rent. These should be well-publicised, flexible, accessible and convenient to use. While credit and debit cards are included in the range of possible payment methods mentioned, the guidance states that any review of payment methods should consider their effectiveness in minimising arrears.

The Housing Corporation is aware that the use of credit and debit cards to pay rent and rent arrears has raised concerns. It has not issued any guidance to housing associations on this, as it is for each individual association to decide its own approach to managing rent payment.

The Housing Corporation supports flexible approaches to the payment of rent and other charges. For many tenants, for example those who may find travelling difficult, being able to use direct debits or online banking provides convenience and security. The Corporation also recognises that it may not be cost-effective for landlords to handle relatively small amounts of cash.

The Corporation has published a financial inclusion toolkit to assist landlords to recognise and tackle the root causes of multiple indebtedness, and to signpost good quality advice and support. Social landlords are expected to manage rent arrears positively, intervening before debt escalates out of control.

Local Authorities: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to make decisions of the Local Government Ombudsman binding on local authorities. [230552]

John Healey: We continue to share the view of the ombudsman, stated in their 2002-03 annual report, that their recommendations to councils not being enforceable in law is a

"valuable feature facilitating an informal and non-adversarial approach to investigations."

Local Authority Business Growth Incentives Scheme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many businesses the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative has assisted in each year of its operation; and what its budget for *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and (c) 2011-12 is. [232671]

John Healey: Communities and Local Government does not have a central record of the number of businesses the Local Enterprise Growth Initiative (LEGI) has assisted in each year of its operation. The LEGI budget for *(a)* 2009-10 is £98.9 million and *(b)* 2010-11 is £94 million. Any future funding for 2011-12 would need to be determined in a future spending round.

Local Government Finance

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which organisations assist local authorities with *(a)* efficiency measures and *(b)* value for money delivery. [230406]

John Healey: The information requested is as follows:

"Prospectus 2008: the guide to Improvement and Efficiency support"

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/localgovernment/pdf/725539.pdf

was published earlier this year by this Department in conjunction with the Local Government Association. It sets out a comprehensive picture of the support which central and local government are providing to local partners to meet the efficiency challenge and deliver better public services, and explains how that support can be accessed.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to the publication of the Community Empowerment White Paper, what estimate she has made of the possible additional costs to local authorities of allowing audio or video-based *(a)* remote voting and *(b)* participation in the meetings referred to. [230538]

John Healey: The 'Communities in Control White Paper Impact Assessments' document, available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/communities/communitiesincontrolia

contains a breakdown of the White Paper policy costs at annex B of the document.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether parish councils which are liable for higher business rates levied on parish council-owned property in areas where the higher tier council has levied a supplementary business rate will receive funding to compensate from *(a)* the higher tier council and *(b)* the Government; [230670]

(2) whether district councils which are liable for higher business rates levied on district council-owned property in areas where the county council has levied a supplementary business rate will receive funding to compensate from *(a)* the higher tier council and *(b)* the Government; [230671]

(3) whether London boroughs will receive additional funding from the Government to compensate for higher business rates levied from the London supplementary business rate for Crossrail; and whether an estimate has been made of the likely additional cost to London boroughs from such higher rates. [230672]

John Healey: 'Business Rate Supplements: a White Paper', published in October 2007, set out the Government's plans to introduce a power for county councils, unitary authorities and the Greater London authority to levy supplements on non-domestic properties with a rateable value over £50,000 in both the public and private sectors. Subject to the legislation required to give effect to these proposals, authorities will also be able to introduce more generous safeguards for local businesses. Any estimate of the likely additional costs falling on non-domestic ratepayers as a result of the levying of a supplement will therefore be for the relevant levying authority. Local authorities are required to pay taxes like any other taxpayer. They have considerable freedom as to how they budget to spend the resources available to them, bearing in mind local priorities and their overall resource position.

Local Government: Pensions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the estimated cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme to local authority employers is in 2008-09. [230659]

John Healey: The most recent published information on the cost of the Local Government Pension Scheme was issued on 15 October 2008 and can be found on the CLG website at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm

Details of the costs of the scheme for 2008-09 will be published towards the end of 2009.

Local Government: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many councils have made a net improvement in their comprehensive performance assessment (CPA) scores since CPA was introduced. [230685]

John Healey: For single tier authorities and county councils, 85 moved up by at least one category between 2002-04 and 51 moved up by at least one category between 2005-07.

For district councils, 42 councils improved performance by at least one category between 2006-08.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether anonymous complaints, which do not amount to an allegation of criminality, will be considered under the revised standards board regime. [230686]

John Healey: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 8 May 2008, *Official Report*, column 1077W.

Minister for the South East

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the responsibilities are of the Minister for the South East; and if she will make a statement. [231552]

Mr. Khan: The Prime Minister appointed the Minister for the South East (along with Ministers for each of the other English regions) in June 2007. Their specific roles were specified in the "Governance of Britain" Green Paper, published on 3 July 2007. Their three key functions are to act as:

> "Regional Leaders": working with members, officials and colleagues from all sectors to get beneath the headlines and into the detail of the problems facing the region—and to look for the solutions.
>
> "Government champions": speaking at a number of key regional events to promote national policies, using these events also to explore how the region can draw on its experience to offer solutions back to Whitehall Departments.
>
> "Regional Champions": working with colleagues within Whitehall to promote the region's successes; to champion the needs of the region and to ensure that the region's voice is heard—including membership on both the Regional Economic Council and the Council of Regional Ministers in response to the current economic situation.

National Policy Statements

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether national policy statements will be subject to parliamentary approval. [229695]

Mr. Khan: Under the provisions of the Planning Bill, draft national policy statements will be subject to parliamentary scrutiny. The Bill does not require parliamentary approval of national policy statements.

Planning

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the earliest date is on which national policy statements can come into force following Royal Assent to the Planning Bill. [230418]

John Healey: Before national policy statements can be designated, they must meet the requirements in the Bill: appraisal of sustainability, public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. Given this, we believe that the earliest that NPSs are likely to be designated would be in the latter part of 2009.

Planning: Enforcement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department provides to local authorities on how long their planning enforcement cases should take to be *(a)* investigated and *(b)* completed; and if she will make a statement. [232505]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Under-Secretary for Communities and Local Government, my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 495W.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in respect of which of her Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230744]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government leads on two cross-government Public Service Agreements (PSA 20, "Increase long term housing supply and affordability" and PSA 21, "Build more cohesive, empowered and active communities)". Communities and Local Government also contributes to a number of PSAs led by other Government Departments as set out in the relevant PSA Delivery Agreements. It is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

Small Business: Tax Allowances

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated aggregate monetary value is of unclaimed small business rate relief in England in the last year for which figures are available; [230539]

(2) what estimate she has made of the value of small business rate relief that was unclaimed in the latest year for which figures are available. [230701]

John Healey: Without a ratepayer making a claim for the relief it is not always possible to establish whether all the eligibility criteria, including whether the ratepayer occupies only one property in England, have been met. Therefore there is no estimated value of unclaimed small business rate relief.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether small business rate relief applies to business rate liability for an empty property. [230689]

John Healey: No. Small business rate relief applies to occupied properties only.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the estimated yearly cost to the public purse of small business rate relief was in the latest period for which figures are available; [230691]

(2) what the estimated gross yearly revenue is from the extra business rates multiplier on medium-sized and large firms to fund small business rate relief. [230875]

John Healey: The small business rate relief scheme is designed to operate at no cost to the public purse. A supplement on the multiplier, used to calculate the rate bills of those not receiving the relief, is set before the start of each year. The supplement is set at a level which attempts to eliminate any surpluses or deficits in previous years.

Figures showing the net effect of the small business rate relief scheme on local authorities' contributions to the national non-domestic rates pool were published in a statistical release on 17 September 2008 and can be found on the Communities and Local Government website

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/ctax/ndr078o.htm

In 2007-08, local authorities reported that they raised £133 million from the supplement on the multiplier to fund small business rate relief.

Standards Board for England: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1343W, on the Standards Board for England: finance, whether a decision has been taken on the total grant to be allocated to the Standards Board and Adjudication Panel for 2008-09. [230568]

John Healey: The grant allocation to the Standards Board for England, including the Adjudication Panel, for 2008-09, is £8.285 million.

Stonemasons

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether qualified stonemasons who are not on the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons may be employed by local authorities to carry out stonemasonry work. [229647]

Mr. Khan: I am not aware of any requirement for qualified stonemasons employed by local authorities to be on the British Register of Accredited Memorial Masons.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* NUVOS and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229527]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Number	*Percentage*
Classic	2,820	71.9
Classic Plus	25	0.6
NUVOS	203	5.2
Premium	873	22.3

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229189]

Paul Goggins: There are 20 staff currently employed within the Northern Ireland Office who were recruited through the fast stream process. The current average salary of these officials is £38,000. This figure does not include staff who were recruited into the fast stream prior to joining the Northern Ireland Office.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vacant posts in his Department were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230601]

Paul Goggins: Open recruitment is used in the Northern Ireland Office to fill individual posts where the skills and qualifications required are not available from within the civil service. It is also used for basic entry level recruitment, such as officer grades in the Northern Ireland Prison Service. The following table provides details of the number of posts advertised along with advertising costs for each of the years requested.

	NIO Core Department		*NIO Agencies*	
	Number of posts	*Advertising costs (£)*	*Number of posts*	*Advertising costs (£)*
2005-06	69	76,844.74	91	107,886.66
2006-07	34	49,105.27	111	189,461.15
2007-08	9	23,952.65	132	207,270.82

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many security passes have been reported *(a)* lost and *(b)* stolen by staff in (i) his Department and (ii) agencies sponsored by his Department in each year since 2001. [228893]

Paul Goggins: The information requested is detailed in the following table:

	Lost		*Stolen*		*Recovered*	
	NIO	*Agencies*	*NIO*	*Agencies*	*NIO*	*Agencies*
2001	9	12	1	0	2	0
2002	5	14	0	0	0	0
2003	12	9	2	0	1	0
2004	15	13	1	2	4	1
2005	5	15	1	1	1	0
2006	12	13	1	0	1	0
2007	11	29	1	0	2	0
2008	2	27	0	0	2	0

The loss of a pass, by whatever means, must be reported to the issuing office, the relevant building security and the Police Service of Northern Ireland. As soon as a pass is reported missing it is electronically deactivated and cannot be used.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230491]

Paul Goggins: The following table provides a breakdown of expenditure on external training courses for Northern Ireland Office staff for financial years 2005-06, 2006-07, and 2007-08.

	Expenditure (£)
2005-06	81,126
2006-07	146,862
2007-08	73,652

The external organisations paid by the Northern Ireland Office to provide external courses are listed as follows.

External providers 2005-06

BIC Systems Ltd.
British Telecom
BT Bus Communication
BT Customer Accounts
Business Objects (UK) Ltd.
Centre for Public Policy Seminars
CIPD NI
CIPFA
City Paper Ltd.
CMPS
ECSC Ltd.
Elite Training Services Ltd.
Emergency Planning College
Haymarket Publishing Services Ltd.
Legal Island Ltd.
Mullan Training
National Criminal Intelligence Service
National School of Government
Pricewaterhouse Coopers
Siemens Plc
Skillpath Seminars
St. John Ambulance London

St. John Ambulance NI
Stephen Moore Chartered Accountants
The Beeches Management Centre
The Whitehall and Industry Group

External providers 2006-07

Act Now Training Ltd.
Action Mental Health
AKSAA Ltd.
Belfast Institute of Higher and Further Education
BIC Systems Ltd.
BT Plc
Centre for Applied Learning
Centre for Public Policy Seminars
CESG The Accountant
Chief Executives Forum
CIPFA
Compumaster
PODS Parliamentary Communications
Elite Training Services Ltd.
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Hewlett-Packard Ltd.
Highpoint Adventure Management Ltd.
Law and Order General
Legal Island Ltd.
Mullan Training
National School of Government
Neil Stewart Associates
Parades Commission General
Parity Solutions
Paymaster (1836) Ltd.
Payroll Solutions
PMA Training Ltd.
Qinetiq Ltd.
Reed Learning Plc
Siemens Plc
Skillpath Seminars
St. John Ambulance HQ Worthing
St. John Ambulance NI
The Beeches Management Centre
The Consultation Institute
The White Paper Conference Company Ltd.
University of Wales
White Young Green Consulting Ltd.

External providers 2007-08

Act Now Training Ltd.
Belfast Institute of Higher and Further Education
BIALL
Bill Of Rights Forum General
BT Plc
Chief Executives Forum
CIPFA
Devolution and Legislation Division General
Disability Action Employment and Training
PODS Parliamentary Communications
Elite Training Services Ltd.
EOS Systems Ltd.
Govnet Communications
Health Promotion Agency for NI
Industry and Parliament Trust
Law and Order General
Legal Island Ltd.
Local Government Training Group
McCallum Partnership
Mullan Training
National School of Government
Neil Stewart Associates
Selex Communications Ltd.
Siemens Plc
Skillpath Seminars
South Eastern Health and Social Care Trust
St. John Ambulance NI
Sureskills
Sweet and Maxwell
The Beeches Management Centre
The Consultation Institute
The Royal National Institute for Deaf People
University of Ulster
University of Wales

Homophobia: Crime

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents of homophobic crime were recorded in each Police Service of Northern Ireland district command unit area in each of the last 12 months; how many successful prosecutions were brought against those responsible; and what sentence was imposed in each case. [228392]

Paul Goggins: Recording of incidents of homophobic crime is a matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

The information sought on prosecutions and sentences is not available. Prosecution and conviction would be for the simple offence (e.g. assault) without reference to any homophobic motivation. Court data do not contain background information in relation to offences committed, and it is therefore not possible to separate out the number of successful prosecutions and the corresponding sentence imposed for offences with a homophobic motivation.

Office of the Surveillance Commissioner

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether the Government plans to bring forward legislative proposals to allow the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner to inspect local authorities in Northern Ireland. [230792]

Paul Goggins: Legislative provision already exists at section 61 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 for the appointment of an Investigatory Powers Commissioner for Northern Ireland.

Parades Commission: Expenditure

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission on staff *(a)* salaries and *(b)* expenses in each year since 2004-05. [232871]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission. I have asked the Parades Commission Secretary to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Parades Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what tendering process is followed by the Northern Ireland Parades Commission in the appointment of public relations companies. [232870]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission. I have asked the Parades Commission Secretary to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Equality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he made of whether institutionalised sectarianism exists within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [227411]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for monitoring incidences of recorded bullying and harassment on the grounds of religious beliefs and or political opinion. From 1 January 2005 to 22 October 2008 there have been four cases raised. The PSNI does not believe that there is any evidence to support a view that it is institutionally sectarian.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Racial Discrimination

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of whether institutionalised racism exists within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [227410]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI Equality and Diversity Unit is responsible for monitoring incidences of recorded bullying and harassment on the grounds of racist behaviour. From 1 January 2005 to 22 October 2008 there have been no recorded complaints of racist behaviour.

The PSNI does not believe that there is any evidence to support a view that it is institutionally racist.

Stun Guns

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many incidents have required the use of Taser guns in Northern Ireland since their introduction; and whether there have been any reported instances of injuries requiring hospital treatment as a result of such use. [232838]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Archaeology

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what date he expects English Heritage to have completed research into local authority archaeological and conservation staffing levels. [231350]

Barbara Follett: Information from English Heritage is that they expect to publish research into local authority archaeological and conservation staffing levels early in 2009, following a period of consultation with the sector.

Arts: Finance

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the proportion of expenditure on the arts which was funded by *(a)* public money, *(b)* sponsorship and *(c)* other sources in 2007-08. [227983]

Barbara Follett: The expenditure on arts in the year 2007-08 which was funded by public money (lottery and Exchequer funding) is as follows:

The amount drawn down by the Lottery Arts Distributors, consisting of Arts Council England, the Scottish Arts Council, Arts Council of Wales, and Arts Council of Northern Ireland, according to the un-audited National Lottery Distribution Fund's Annual Accounts in 2007-08 was £198.434 million.

In addition, some grants made by the Big Lottery Fund may have benefited groups related to the arts.

The amount of grant funding provided by Arts Council England was £377.113 million.

My Department does not hold records of the expenditure on arts from either sponsorship or other sources. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent from the public purse per head on the arts in *(a)* rural areas and *(b)* urban areas in 2007-08. [227990]

Barbara Follett: We do not draw a distinction between urban and rural areas and the Arts Council do not record allocations by rural, urban or suburban area. A list of Arts Council England's funding for arts in 2007-08, broken down by constituency, will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Bank Services

Mr. Kilfoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on changes to the lending policies of those banks recapitalised with public money in areas relevant to his responsibility. [230063]

Andy Burnham: I have regular discussions with Cabinet colleagues on a range of current topics.

BBC: Manpower

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people are employed by the BBC. [232861]

Andy Burnham: The BBC annual report and accounts 2007-08 indicate that the average number of people employed was 24,331.

This is broken down as follows:

	Number
UK Public Service Broadcasting	17,677
BBC World Service and BBC Monitoring	2,219
Commercial Businesses	3,205
Casuals	851
BBC Orchestra and BBC Singers	379

Clothing: Greater London

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to ensure *(a)* that London is a competitive centre for fashion and *(b)* those working in the industry are encouraged to continue to work in the UK. [232709]

Barbara Follett: In February this year the Government published 'Creative Britain—New Talents for a New Economy', a strategy for the Creative Economy in the UK, which sets out in 26 commitments the Government's determination to move the creative industries from the margins to the mainstream of the UK economy. Fashion industry initiatives, both for London as a national and international fashion centre, and for those working in the industry in this country, are central to the strategy.

Creative Britain includes plans to tackle problems faced by the industry and to encourage and support its growth through education, access to technology and to business support, as well as a commitment to promote British fashion on the world stage.

For example, the strategy sets out plans to explore support for the British Fashion Council (BFC) to build on its strengths and become a central voice leading the fashion industry. We will work with the industry and with Skillfast UK, the Sector Skills Council for the fashion, textile and apparel industries, to create new apprenticeship opportunities as part of a new Creative Apprenticeships initiative. We will also help the London College of Fashion, the BFC, Skillfast and others to scope a project to develop a High-Fashion Hub for London; this project is intended to be a model for the fashion sector elsewhere in the country.

We will work with the Mayor of London to champion London Fashion Week and help it fight to retain its status as a focal event in the industry calendar amidst increasingly strong international competition.

The strategy publication can be read in full at

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/CEPFeb2008.pdf.

Conferences: Greater London

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the implications for his policies of London's standing in the International Congress and Convention Association's rankings of countries and changes in those rankings over the last three years. [231351]

Barbara Follett: London's position in the International Congress and Convention Association's (ICCA) rankings for 'number of meetings per city' has fallen over the past three years. However, the UK remained in the top four countries in the rankings of 'number of meetings held per country' over this same period. ICCA advises commentators not to interpret their statistics in isolation, as they only record events that take place regularly and rotate between at least three countries. These statistics do not take into account the corporate and intergovernmental sectors.

In partnership with the industry and the wider public sector, the DCMS has a clear and coherent policy framework for industry growth, including branding and marketing improvement led by VisitBritain.

The 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games presents the UK tourism industry with its greatest-ever opportunity. Early indications from eventBritain and Visit London are that much interest has been expressed in holding large international events and conventions in London in the period up to the games and beyond.

Departmental Allowances

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent on staff expenses in each of the last three years. [231342]

Barbara Follett: The table sets out expenses incurred in respect of travel and subsistence, including minor incidental expenses to departmental officials.

All official travel is undertaken in accordance with rules set out in the Department's staff guide under Travel and Subsistence and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

	Total expenses £
2007-08	450,649.33
2006-07	529,873.61
2005-06	602,508.35

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [232845]

Mr. Sutcliffe: There are 13 full-time equivalent press officers working in the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and they all provide assistance for the Department.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost to the public purse of his Department was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228624]

Andy Burnham: The total departmental spending (and therefore the cost to the public purse) of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport in 2006-07 was £4,623,291,000.

The figures for 2007-08 are not due to be published until late 2008. The estimated outturn figure published in the 2008 DCMS annual report is £4,898,899,000.

For ease of reference the data can also be found on page 13 of the following link and page 52 of the annual report, under 'Total departmental spending: DCMS'.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/DCMS_Annual_Report_08_03.pdf.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on publishing in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* publication and *(b)* category of publication. [231343]

Barbara Follett: The amount spent on publishing for each of the last three years was:

	Spent on publishing (£)
2005-06	191,854.56
2006-07	143,283.50
2007-08	303,218.50

(a) The breakdown by publication is as follows:

Publication title	*Cost (ex VAT) (£)*
April 2005 to March 2006	
Gambling Act 2005: What it means for Licensing Authorities	769.31
Listing Criteria—Public Consultation	2,346.44
Ecclesiastical Exemption	581.62
Hague Convention Consultation	5,549.34
Marine Consultation—Analysis of responses	581.62
Treasure Annual Report	28,581.71
Museums Acquisitions	2,976.80
Human Remains Code of Practice	3,984.31
Open House Leaflet	368.00
Total Reward Leaflet	2,209.00
Sustainable Development Plan	2,955.50
DCMS Annual Report	46,229.30
Abolition of Slavery leaflet	1,861.47
Lottery Good Causes Consultation	1,143.25
Digital Housing Project (reprint)	1,350
Communicating with the over 65 years: Desk Research document	1,010.50
Digital Expert Group report document	503
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries full document	4,180
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries A4 summary	1,138
The role of higher and further education in the Creative Industries flyer	920
Market for Art: Government reply to 6th report CMS committee	1,580.00
Report on Theatre: Government response to CMS committee	1,690.00
Public Libraries: Government response to CMS select Committee.	1,910.00
DCMS Resource Accounts	4,619.49
Export of objects of cultural interest	12,243
National Lottery Distribution fund	2,326.00
Government response to committee report on charter review	1,544.00
Spoliation Advisory Panel report	3,164.00
BBC White Paper	15,311.90
Broadcasting Cricket document	3,164.00
Spoliation Advisory Panel/4 drawings	1,740.00
Government response to Lords Select Committee on charter Review	1,544.00
DCMS Business Plan reprint	1,350.00
Dynamic Action Plan	1,540.00
Dance Link brochure	11,912.00
BBC Charter White Paper	17,765
Sustainable Development Action Plan	2,812
Total	191,854.56
April 2006 to March 2007	
About Us (Amendments and reprint)	1,375.88
Gambling Act: Transitional Arrangements Consultation	1,233.70
Laying the Foundations	12,992.00
Nurturing Creativity in Young People	14,310
Digital Expert Group report (July 2006) document	457.50
Gambling Act: Fees document	1,545
Spoliation Advisory Panel—Ashmolean Report	3,164.00
Tourism Consultation document	8,500
Working Together: local authorities and DCMS	8,500
BBC Further Revised Draft Royal Charter	330
BBC Revised Draft Royal Charter and BBC Revised Draft Framework Agreement	2,227
BBC Draft Royal Charter and Framework Agreement	2,760
DCMS Business Plan 2006-07	3,503
DCMS annual report	19,083.85
Creativity Review	440
Museums Strategy	2,923
BROADCASTING: Copy of Royal Charter for the Continuance of the British Broadcasting Corporation (Cm 6925)	1,587
The Community Radio Sector: Looking to the Future	2,796
Export of Objects of Cultural Interest 2005-06	11,950
Heritage Protection for the 21st Century (Cm 7057)	9,550
Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on 'London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: Funding and Legacy'(Cm 7071)	£960
Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Call TV quiz shows (Cm 7072)	552
Treasure report	25,260
Heritage Protection Review	7,283.50
Total	143,283.50
April 2007 to March 2008	
Cm 7057: Heritage Protection for the 21st Century	9,520
Cm 7071: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on "London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games: Funding and Legacy" (HC69)	960
Cm 7072: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Inquiry into Call TV quiz shows	552

Publication title	*Cost (ex VAT) (£)*
Cm 7088: Government Response to the Science and Technology Select Committee Report on Human Enhancement Technologies	948
Cm 7118: The Digital Switchover Help Scheme: A Scheme Agreement Between Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport and the British Broadcasting Corporation	2,299
Cm 7184: Government Response to the NAO Review of the Experiences of UK Nationals Affected by the Indian Ocean Tsunami	1,652
Cm 7309: Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport Select Committee Report on Public Service Content (HC36-1)	1,269
Public Appointments and Public Bodies	2,935
Winning: A tourism strategy for 2012 and beyond	27,321
Winning: A tourism Strategy for 2012 and beyond—Executive summary	6,625
London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games Annual Report January 2008	22,805
Staying Ahead: the economic performance of	62,466
111 flyer	275
HC63 Report of the Spoliation Advisory Panel in respect of three Rubens Paintings	1,571
London Open House leaflet	675
Export of Objects of Cultural interest 2005-06	12,627
CM7236 Government Response to House of Lords Select Committee on Communications	460
CM7186 Government Response to the Culture, Media and Sport select committee report into New Media and the Creative Industries	712
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games	19,469
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (Welsh version)	2,847
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet	10,570
Our Promise for 2012: How the UK will benefit from the Olympic Games and Paralympic leaflet (Welsh version)	982
Sustainable development action plan	1,487.50
Culture on Demand: Ways to engage a Broader audience	16,220
Culture and Creativity in 2007	8,949
Community Amateur Sports Club (CASC) scheme leaflet	2,357
Helping keep your child safe in sport: Child protection leaflet for parents	7,060
Findings and Recommendation of the Live Music Forum	39,793
Final Report of the Casino Advisory Panel	12,600
Treasure Annual Report 2004	24,114
Cenotaph Memorial Order of service	1,098
Total	303,218.50

(b) The breakdown by category of publication follows:

Category of publication	*Cost (£)*
Reports	318,814.23
Leaflets	28,769.35
Consultations	18,772.73
Statutory reports and select committee responses	272,000.25

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agency and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility have taken sick days due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of staff of each body this figure represented in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [216153]

Mr. Sutcliffe: As part of the Department's Diversity and Health and well-being policies, we have a range of initiatives and programmes in place to support staff and to manage stress, mental health and behavioural issues.

Furthermore, in order to raise awareness of stress and mental health issues we have implemented a range of initiatives and guidance for managers and staff to manage mental health problems in the workplace including an initiative to tackle the stigma and discrimination associated with mental illness.

We regularly monitor sickness absence and reasons for absences as a means to tackle attendance issues and provide support to our staff. This support ranges from a 24 hour employee assistance programme, occupational health referral, rehabilitation programme for staff and reasonable adjustments to work or the working environment.

Our work-life balance and lifestyle programme supports our "stress at work" policy allowing staff to manage stress through achievement of effective work-life balance.

We have robust procedures in place to manage sickness absence within the Department and the policy includes guidance for staff on how to preserve and maintain their own and others' mental well-being, this includes information on preventing and identifying stress.

The Department has completed a stress audit recently and the overall departmental analysis shows that there are no areas of high risk stress across the Department, and only three areas of medium risk. We are now in the process of drawing up an action plan to address the issues highlighted in the report. We will also be running a health event in November which will aim to raise awareness of health and well-being issues.

The Department's sick pay policy pays for sickness absence on full pay for up to six months in any period of 12 months absence—followed by half pay for sickness of up to a maximum of 12 months in any period of four years or less.

Table 1: Department for Culture, Media and Sport

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
	Number of staff	*Proportion of staff*[1] *(Percentage)*	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of staff*[1] *(Percentage)*
2003-04	7	1.4	6	1.2
2004-05	5	1.0	5	1.0
2005-06	8	1.6	5	1.0
2006-07	8	1.5	2	0.4
2007-08	6	1.2	2	0.4

Table 2: The Royal Parks Agency

	Stress		*Mental and behavioural*	
	Number of staff	*Proportion of staff*[1] *(Percentage)*	*Number of staff*	*Proportion of staff*[1] *(Percentage)*
2003-04	6	2.5	1	0.4
2004-05	11	6.8	8	4.9
2005-06	3	2.3	2	1.6
2006-07	3	3.0	2	2.0

Table 2: The Royal Parks Agency

	Stress		Mental and behavioural	
	Number of staff	Proportion of staff[1] (Percentage)	Number of staff	Proportion of staff[1] (Percentage)
2007-08	2	2.0	0	0.0

[1] Proportion of staff—this figure is based on average staff in post for each year.

Notes:

1. Table 1 shows the results for DCMS only. DCMS only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.
2. Table 2 shows the results for The Royal Parks Agency—DCMS's executive agency only. The Royal Parks Agency only holds sickness absence data dating back to 2003.

The information in relation to the non-departmental public bodies could be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Departmental Surveys

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of *(a)* his Department's most recent annual staff survey, *(b)* the staff perception of the Department's ability to manage change and *(c)* the staff perception of communications within the Department and with NDPBs; and if he will make a statement. [224773]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department held its last staff survey in June 2007. The results were analysed and presented to the Executive Committee in September 2007. The results showed that in both areas of change management and communication there is scope for improvement, and this has been reflected in the resulting action plan. We have also introduced a programme of regular pulse surveys to ensure that we continue to monitor progress against the action plan, including communications with our NDPBs.

Digital Switchover Help Scheme

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with broadcasters on introducing talking menus as part of the digital switchover. [231653]

Andy Burnham: There have been no recent discussions with broadcasters about talking menus. However, a talking Electronic Programme guide is being developed by the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB) and its industry partners. My Department is keeping this development under review and will consider the case for including the new equipment in the Digital Switchover Help Scheme at a suitable point in the future.

Football: Management

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many recommendations Lord Burns' review into the Football Association made; and how many of his recommendations have been implemented in the areas of *(a)* corporate governance and *(b)* transparency. [230851]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Lord Burns' independent review, commissioned by the Football Association (FA), recommended a number of measures designed to reform their decision-making structure in order to make it a more modern, effective and representative governing body for football. His recommendations fell into five main areas: a reformed FA board headed by an independent chairman; a broader, more representative FA Council to act as the "parliament of football"; a new semi-autonomous regulation and compliance body; the creation of a Community Football Alliance to bridge the governing body functions for the professional and national sides of the game; and a funding formula to clearly set out the distribution of FA surpluses.

The recommendations were approved by the FA Council in October 2006 and by the AGM in May 2007. Since that time the new FA board has been introduced, with five representatives for each of the professional and national game, alongside the FA CEO and Lord Triesman as the FA's first independent chairman. In addition, the FA Council has expanded to incorporate greater representation for players, supporters, managers, referees, ethnic minorities, disability football, women's football and other areas of the game. The new Football Regulatory Authority acts as an oversight body for the FA's governance and regulation activities. The funding formula is also now in operation and measures have been putt in place to bridge the gap between the professional and national games.

As part of the monitoring process the FA will review the changes they have put in place at Council, Board and Football Regulatory Authority level by 2012.

Freeview Service: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the availability of Freeview in Hemel Hempstead; and if he will make a statement. [231895]

Andy Burnham: Most of Hemel Hempstead and its surrounding areas receive signals from the 'Hemel Hempstead' transmitter at Bedmond. This transmitter already broadcasts digital signals and digital terrestrial television (DTT) coverage and should be generally good. There is a small area in the centre of the town where terrain and tall buildings screen viewers from the main Hemel Hempstead transmitter. In that area, viewers receive signals from the much smaller 'Hemel Hempstead Town' relay transmitter. Hemel Hempstead Town only broadcasts four analogue services at present and therefore DTT reception will not be possible for viewers that rely on it.

When switchover occurs, Hemel Hempstead Town relay will be converted to broadcast digital services and the power of the digital services from the transmitter at Bedmond will also be increased. These two measures should improve the reception reliability of the digital services and extend their reach to match that of the analogue services they replace. Switchover is due to occur in the ITV London region in 2012.

Gaming Machines

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what advice the Gambling Commission has issued on the use of gambling terminals; and if he will make a statement. [231975]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I understand that the Gambling Commission has not issued any formal advice on the use of gambling terminals.

Further details of the Gambling Commission's research programme and published advice are available at:

www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of whether betting shop gambling terminals comply with the Government's licensing policy objectives. [232166]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In July the Gambling Commission advised me of the results of an initial desk-based exercise which looked at international research on the risks associated with high stakes, high prize gaming machines.

The Commission does not consider there to be any research that establishes whether there is a causal link between high stake machines and problem gambling, though the existing research shows that such machines are particularly attractive to those at risk of problem gambling and those with a gambling problem.

The Commission is continuing its research on the impact of high-stake, high-prize gaming machines including category B2 machines formerly known as Fixed Odds Betting Terminals. The work programme includes qualitative research and quantitative analysis of existing data. It is also convening an international panel of experts to help develop the future research programme. The Commission will provide me with an update next summer.

Heritage Protection Bill

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the draft Heritage Protection Bill. [231345]

Barbara Follett: The Government published the draft Heritage Protection Bill on 2 April 2008.

London 2012: Learning Disability

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* other Government Departments and *(b)* non-governmental organisations on the provision of funding to elite athletes with learning disabilities to facilitate their participation in the London 2012 Olympics following the announcement by the International Paralympics Committee that such athletes will be eligible to compete. [230112]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The Government welcome the joint statement by the International Paralympic Committee (IPC) and International Sports Federation for People with an Intellectual Disability (INAS-FID) on 13 September and notes that inclusion of athletes with an intellectual disability in future Paralympics will be considered by the IPC General Assembly in November 2009.

The Government are fully supportive of the efforts to see athletes with an intellectual disability competing once again in the Paralympics and the Minister for Sport and Minister for Disabled People have met previously with the President of the IPC and INAS-FID to discuss this issue and to encourage early resolution.

Since the joint statement there have been no discussions between my Department and other Government Departments or non-Government organisations regarding the provision of funding to these athletes to facilitate their participation in London 2012.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished by his Department through legislation since 1997. [228160]

Barbara Follett: *(a)* Since 1997, my Department has introduced powers of entry in five different Acts. These are:

Act	*Section number(s)*	*Number of powers*
Communications Act 2003	366	1
Gambling Act 2005	306, 307, 308, 309, 310, 311, 312, 313, 314, 315	10
Licensing Act 2003	59, 90, 96, 97, 108, 179, 180	7
London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006	22, 28, 31	3
Olympic Symbol etc Protection Act 1995 (as amended by the London Olympic Games and Paralympic Games Act 2006)	8A	1
Total		22

It is to be noted, however, that a significant number of the powers of entry listed above are in essence powers that already existed elsewhere in legislation which has been updated.

(b) It is not possible to determine which powers of entry have been abolished without incurring disproportionate costs. It has been possible to answer the first part of the question without incurring disproportionate costs because an internal Government review of powers of entry is currently under way. That review, however, does not extend to powers of entry which have been abolished.

Sport England: Internet

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many unique users visited Sport England's Active Places website in each year since its introduction in 2004. [231204]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England advise that they do not record the number of 'hits' on the active places website. Instead, they record only the number of visitors using the tools and applications on the site. Figures provided by Sport England for each of the last four calendar years are as follows:

	Number
2004	59,660
2005	161,506
2006	204,348
2007	218,378

The Active Places website was launched in July 2004 and therefore the figures for that year are significantly smaller than for the other years.

Tourism: Balance of Payments

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the tourism balance of payments in each year since 1997. [231376]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The following table indicates the UK tourism balance of payments deficit.

	£ billion
1997	4.7
1998	6.8
1999	9.5
2000	11.4
2001	14.0
2002	15.2
2003	16.7
2004	17.2
2005	17.9
2006	18.4
2007	19.0

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS)

These figures have been produced using a range of data sources including the UK Tourism Survey and the International Data Survey.

Tourism: Training

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recommendations he has received from the Sector Skills Council on improving the skills of staff working in the tourism industry. [231352]

Barbara Follett: My Department has received detailed recommendations from People 1st on improving the skills of staff working in the tourism industry. These recommendations were outlined in Raising the Bar: the National Skills Strategy for hospitality, leisure, travel and tourism sector in England, which was launched in March 2007. An action plan was produced in November 2007.

The strategy outlines a 10-point plan to improve skills in the priority areas of management and leadership, chefs and customer service, as well as to improve staff retention by supporting and developing employees and making them aware of career development opportunities. It was developed by People 1st following extensive research with 5,000 employers about their skills needs and a review of training and qualifications. This was supported by my Department through four Ministerial Skills summits between 2005 and 2007 which received recommendations from four employer working groups.

The 10-point plan includes an online skills and employment resource called the UKSP which provides a wealth of benefits for businesses looking to improve training in their organisations and for individuals looking to develop careers in the industry, by matching skilled applicants to good employers. The plan also includes action to reform qualifications, support for small businesses, establish a new national skills academy for hospitality to raise standards of delivery of training, improve the quality of apprenticeships, develop new 14-19 diplomas in hospitality and in travel and tourism, launch a campaign to promote careers and improve perceptions of jobs in the sector, and develop a pre-employability package aimed at jobseekers. Further details can be found at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk

I met People 1st in my first few weeks as Tourism Minister and I will be working closely with them and the new academy to ensure that these recommendations are implemented consistently across England. As part of this, I will be chairing the second meeting of the National Skills Strategy Monitoring and Implementation Group later this year, to review how all partners—public and private—are helping take the recommendations forward, and address any barriers to implementation.

VisitBritain: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department provided for Visit Britain *(a)* in 2008-09 and *(b)* in each of the previous five years. [231623]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The VisitBritain grant in aid settlement for the years in question is set out in the following table.

	Total (£ million)
2003-04	47.9
2004-05	48.4
2005-06	49.05
2006-07	50.05
2007-08	49.05
2008-09	47.6

Source:
DCMS.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on research on new farming systems in each of the last five years. [229275]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has invested in research activities in several programmes, since 2003-04, that contribute to development of sustainable farming systems. Industry have joint funded some of the work within LINK programmes.

Total spend for each of the last five years is shown in the following table:

Financial year	*Spend (£)*
2003-04	4,206,843
2004-05	4,922,011
2005-06	4,528,454
2006-07	5,333,833
2007-08	6,572,578
2008-09	6,763,653

These figures are taken from the DEFRA Science Information System database.

Animal Products: Waste Disposal

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what facilities the Government have authorised to *(a)* render and *(b)* incinerate animal waste and meat and bone meal in the event of a disease outbreak. [232862]

Jane Kennedy: In the event of an outbreak of notifiable animal disease for which DEFRA is responsible for carcase disposal, the Department would seek to use the nearest rendering plant or large animal incinerator approved under the Animal By Product Regulations and which is suitably permitted under waste management regulations. The facilities used will depend on the number of carcases to be disposed and the species concerned.

A full list of ABPR Approved facilities can be found on the DEFRA website.

The plant operator is responsible for the disposal of any meat and bone meal or tallow that is produced.

Animal Welfare

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulations cover the minimum space requirements for *(a)* poultry, *(b)* sheep, *(c)* pigs, *(d)* cows and *(e)* other livestock during transportation by (i) rail, (ii) road and (iii) water; and what the minimum requirement is in each case. [232037]

Jane Kennedy: On 5 January 2007, a regulation on the protection of animals during transport came into force across the European Union (EU), with some elements coming into force in 2008 and 2009.

The regulation applies to all those involved with the transport of live vertebrate animals in connection with an economic activity.

Article 3 (general conditions for the means of transport) of regulation 1/2005 states:

> "No person shall transport animals or cause animals to be transported in a way likely to cause injury or undue suffering to them."

In addition point (g) of Article 3 states:

> "Sufficient floor area and height is provided for the animals, appropriate to their size and the intended journey."

This applies to all animals. This will also cover species that do not have specific space requirements within the regulation.

I have placed details of the minimum requirements for the species named, in the Library.

Animals: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of cost and responsibility sharing for animal disease on the effectiveness and profitability of British farming. [228378]

Jane Kennedy: The Government intend to consult on specific proposals for sharing responsibilities and costs for animal health in England later this year. These proposals will be fully costed and accompanied by an initial impact assessment.

Bees: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to licensing treatment of the varroa mite. [231406]

Jane Kennedy: There are currently three products authorised for the control of varroa in the UK: Apiguard Gel, Apistan and Bayvarol Strips.

Details of these products are available on the Veterinary Medicines Directorate's website.

Biofuels

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the effect of trends in biofuel production on food prices. [231673]

Jane Kennedy: The Government commissioned Ed Gallagher, chairman of the Renewable Fuels Agency, to lead a study on the indirect effects of biofuel production, including the impact on food prices.

The Gallagher Review, published in July this year, concluded that increasing demand for biofuels contributes to rising prices for some commodities, notably for oil seeds. For most crops however, price rises in the longer term are rarely more than 5 per cent. But the risk of impacts on food prices is one of the reasons why we are calling for a more cautious approach for biofuels.

Biofuels are not the only reason why food prices have increased in recent years. Other factors include smaller harvests in 2007 because of droughts; higher fertiliser and oil prices; rising GDP; and changing diets leading to a higher demand for animal feed.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which counties will be prioritised in the roll-out of the bluetongue vaccination strategy from May 2009. [231092]

Jane Kennedy: The 2009 vaccination strategy for Bluetongue serotype 8 is currently being discussed with stakeholders. Further details will be announced following these discussions with the expectation that the vaccination plan will be published by December. This will be made available on the DEFRA website.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many bluetongue vaccines have been administered in the last 12 months. [231914]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary, and delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals earlier this year. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no definitive figures can be provided on the numbers of livestock actually vaccinated.

However, to date, sales data from the supply chain suggests the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is around 60 per cent. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the south east and east of England, but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of spending under the Common Agricultural Policy on *(a)* intervention buying and *(b)* export subsidies in each of the last 10 years; what he expects it to be in each year to 2013; and if he will make a statement. [230642]

Jane Kennedy: Tables 1 and 2 present expenditure on export subsidies and intervention for the budget years 1998 to 2007.

Table 1: Expenditure on export refunds for 1998 to 200

	€ million
1998	4,826
1999	5,573
2000	5,646
2001	3,401
2002	3,432
2003	3,730
2004	3,384
2005	3,052
2006	2,494
2007	1,445

Note:
Includes export subsidies to 'other sectors' pre-2006. 'Other sectors' category no longer exists
Source:
European Agricultural Guarantee Fund (EAGF) Financial Report 2007.

Table 2: Expenditure on Intervention for 1998 to 2007

	€ million
1998[1]	5,736
1999[1]	5,032
2000	5,008
2001	6,673
2002	5,474
2003	6,360
2004	5,090
2005	5,348
2006	5,630
2007	3,630

[1] Accounting basis differs pre-2000, these figures are total market support excluding export refunds and direct aid.
Sources:
1998-2006 data from annual publications of 'Agriculture in the European Union: Statistical and economic information', EC. 2007 data compiled from (EAGF) Financial Report 2007.

Future expenditure on export subsidies and intervention purchases is very difficult to accurately forecast as it will depend on future movements in agricultural prices and exchange rates. Nevertheless, the European Commission have presented budgeted expenditure for export refunds and intervention for 2008 and 2009, as presented in table 3.

Table 3: Budgeted expenditure for export refunds and intervention in budget years 2008 and 2009

		€ million
	Export refunds budgeted expenditure	*Intervention budgeted expenditure*[1]
2008	1,105	336
2009	2,927	3,127

[1] Total market support less export refunds.
Source:
2009 Preliminary Draft Budget, EC.

The EU has committed via the WTO's Doha development agenda negotiations to end export subsidies by 2013 and to cut them in half by 2010. A full DDA has not yet been reached, but the UK remains committed to the ending of export subsidies in an ambitious DDA agreement.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [221934]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In DEFRA, public relations activity forms an important element of a broader communications mix which can include advertising, direct marketing, live events and publications. Public relations covers a range of activity, including "experiential" events. The following table shows what public relations activity was procured via DEFRA's Communications Directorate since financial year 2005-06 using the COI Public Relations Framework.

Financial year	*PR agency*	*Campaign*	*Expenditure (£)*
2005-06	Amazon PR	Sustainable development	67,084
	Weber Shandwick	Climate change	86,781
2006-07	EdComs & Blue Rubicon	Defra Year of Food and Farming	50,872
	Amazon PR	Sustainable development	48,973
	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT ON CO_2 campaign	49,250
	Amazon PR	Sustainable development	48,973
2007-08	Trimedia Harrison Cowley	ACT ON CO_2 campaign (including a series of regional road shows)	476,301
	Munro & Forster	Waste	64,424
	Trimedia Communications UK	Climate Change Champions	32,216
	EdComs & Blue Rubicon	Defra Year of Food and Farming	242,570
2008 to September 2008	EdComs & Blue Rubicon	Defra Year of Food and Farming	28,230

Financial year	*PR agency*	*Campaign*	*Expenditure (£)*
	Tremedia Communications UK	ACT ON CO_2 campaign	78,529

There was no PR spend recorded through COI's PR framework for any of DEFRA's agencies.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last discussed reforming the sea fishing quota system with his counterparts in the devolved Administrations; and if he will make a statement. [228051]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Since my recent appointment I have begun meeting with counterparts in the devolved Administrations. Further meetings will be taking place over time which will include a wide range of fisheries issues, including the way in which we manage the common fisheries resource.

Floods: Essex

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will visit Canvey Island to review areas which the Environment Agency's Thames Estuary 2100 scheme is considering for flooding purposes; and if he will make a statement. [224625]

Jane Kennedy: The Thames Estuary 2100 project is still in development and we expect a public consultation to be held in spring 2009. There will be many opportunities for ministerial representation when the final report is published and so I do not think a visit is appropriate at this stage.

Floods: St Albans

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment the Environment Agency has made of flooding risk in St Albans constituency. [230641]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency undertook a Flood Risk Management Study of the Upper Colne catchment in 2005. This included the constituency of St Albans. A catchment flood management plan has also been prepared by the Environment Agency for Thames Region, this was approved in July 2008. The catchment flood management plan is publicly available on the Environment Agency website.

The Environment Agency provided flood risk data to St Albans city and district council in 2007 to help the council prepare a strategic flood risk assessment (SFRA). The Environment Agency also provided the council with information on areas susceptible to surface water flooding in August 2008.

Fly Tipping

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many prosecutions have been made for fly tipping and illegal dumping of waste abroad in each of the last three years. [231008]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency has taken no prosecutions for offences that involved illegal dumping abroad in the last three years. The FlyCapture database shows that local authorities in England and Wales have taken the following successful prosecutions for fly tipping offences:

	Number
2007-08	1,776
2006-07	1,296
2005-06	1,389

The Environment Agency has taken the following successful prosecutions for fly tipping offences (classified as s.33(1)(a)):

	Number
2007-08	183
2006-07	164
2005-06	209

The Environment Agency has taken the following number of prosecutions under the Transfrontier Shipment of Waste Regulations:

	Prosecutions	*Offences*
2005	3	14
2006	2	5
2007	4	9

Food Supply

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the current economic situation on national and international food transportation and distribution systems. [231671]

Jane Kennedy: Globally, food security is about whether enough is being produced to meet demand and whether there are efficient and effective trading and distribution systems to get food to where it is needed.

In July this year the DEFRA published a discussion paper entitled 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World' which drew together a broad range of key issues and opened a public debate on what more needs to be done in the UK and the rest of the world.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps have been taken in partnership with retailers and food suppliers to increase the resilience of the food chain. [231677]

Jane Kennedy: The Government work with the food sector to promote business continuity planning to build the resilience of food supply chains. DEFRA chairs the Food Chain Emergency Liaison Group, a forum at which other Government departments, the food industry and the relevant trade associations can share information, discuss business continuity and jointly consider developing Government policy.

Additionally, in July this year DEFRA published a discussion paper entitled 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World' which drew together a broad range of key issues and opened a public debate on what more needs to be done in the UK and the rest of the world.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what systems are in place to monitor and assess the resilience of the UK food chain. [231678]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA chairs the Food Chain Emergency Liaison Group (FCELG), a forum at which other Government departments, the food industry and the relevant trade associations can share information, discuss business continuity and jointly consider developing Government policy.

DEFRA is also engaged in the central Government programme to improve civil contingency planning, which includes work on the UK food chain. This programme includes building resilience across all parts of the United Kingdom, horizon scanning and risk assessment. Information in the public domain about the Government's work in this area can be found on the official Government website, the UK Resilience homepage.

Additionally, in July this year the DEFRA published a discussion paper entitled 'Ensuring the UK's Food Security in a Changing World' which drew together a broad range of key issues and opened a public debate on what more needs to be done in the UK and the rest of the world.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of food imports were from *(a)* EU and *(b)* non-EU countries in each of the last 10 years. [231679]

Jane Kennedy: The proportion of food imports despatched to the UK from EU and non-EU countries in each of the last 10 years is given in the following table.

Proportion of UK food imports despatched from EU 27 and other countries, based on traded value: 1998 to 2007

Percentage

	EU	*Non-EU*	*All food imports*
1998	64	36	100
1999	64	36	100
2000	65	35	100
2001	65	35	100
2002	66	34	100
2003	69	31	100
2004	69	31	100
2005	69	31	100
2006	69	31	100
2007	71	29	100

Source:
H M Revenue and Customs
Data prepared by trade statistics, Food Chain Analysis Group, DEFRA

Food: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proposals he has to develop the energy market for wood waste. [231009]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has a project to take forward the policy on waste wood set out in the Waste Strategy 2007. As an initial step, DEFRA published an information report 'Waste Wood as a Biomass Fuel' in April 2008, prepared in consultation with waste wood recyclers and other stakeholders. As a practical follow-up step to this report, we are encouraging local authorities applying for waste private finance initiative (PFI) credits in support of their waste infrastructure procurements to include plans for waste wood collection and supply.

Landfill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what deadline the Government have set on the consultation for imposing legal restrictions on the types of waste that can be sent to landfill. [231007]

Jane Kennedy: In the England Waste Strategy 2007, the Government said that subject to further analysis, they intended to consult on whether the introduction of further restrictions on the landfilling of biodegradable and recyclable wastes would make an effective contribution to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and increasing resource efficiency.

DEFRA has commissioned research into how such restrictions have worked in other countries and how this experience might translate into the UK context. We anticipate that this research will be completed early next year and we will consult on any proposals flowing from it as soon as possible thereafter.

Milk

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litres of milk were *(a)* produced and *(b)* consumed daily in England in the latest period for which figures are available. [231922]

Jane Kennedy: 8,645 million litres of milk were produced on farm in England in 2007 (equivalent to 23.7 million litres per day). Most of this milk goes to dairies for processing. In 2007, just over half the milk delivered to UK dairies was used for liquid milk and just under half was used to make other dairy products (cheese, butter etc.). It is estimated that about 12.8 million litres of liquid milk is produced in England each day. The dairies sell the liquid milk for consumption as liquid drinking milk or for further manufacture.

Households in England purchased an average of 11.3 million litres of drinking milk each day in 2006. This excludes milk consumed outside the home (e.g. milk in drinks bought in cafés).

Noise: Roads

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he expects the Traffic Noise Action plans based on the noise maps published in May 2008 to be published; what organisation will be tasked with delivering upon those plans; and what funds he has allocated to support implementation of the plans. [228566]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* We plan to consult on a draft action plan for major roads very shortly. The competent authority for the plan is the Secretary of State but we will liaise with the Highways Agency and local Highways Authorities on the implementation of it. Any measures identified in the plan will have to be funded from existing or planned future resources.

Packaging: Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he has implemented the EU directive target's of 60 per cent. recovery and 55 per cent. recycling of packaging waste in 2008. [231012]

Jane Kennedy: The EU directive on packaging and packaging waste (2004/12/EC) requires all member states to ensure that a minimum of 60 per cent. of all packaging waste is recovered (of which 55 per cent. must be recycled). The directive specifies material specific recovery/recycling targets of 60 per cent. for glass, 60 per cent. for paper/board, 50 per cent. for metals, 22.5 per cent. for plastics and 15 per cent. for wood. We are currently on track to achieve these targets by 31 December 2008.

The UK has transposed this directive through two pieces of legislation—the Producer Responsibility Obligations (Packaging Waste) Regulations (Amendment) 2008 and the Packaging (Essential Requirements) Regulations 2003 (as amended).

Under the producer responsibility regulations, companies must ensure that a proportion of the packaging they handle is recovered and recycled. The amount they must recycle depends on how much packaging they handle, the activities they have carried out with that packaging e.g. retailing, packer filling and the targets set by the Government. Small companies or companies who do not handle much packaging are exempted from the regulations.

The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) has been working with retailers, brands and manufacturers to reduce packaging waste. WRAP has been working specifically to increase the amount of recycled material used by the UK manufacturing sector, to promote recycling by consumers and householders and advising local authorities on their recycling schemes.

River Mimram: Pollution

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will commission research from the Environment Agency on *(a)* bromate levels in the River Mimram and *(b)* the extent to which bromate contamination has spread in Hertfordshire in the last six months. [228541]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency carries out regular monitoring of groundwater and surface water. In the last two years the Environment Agency has sampled 93 locations monthly, quarterly or annually. Monitoring has not included the River Mimram because results from other locations indicate that groundwater between the plume and the Mimram does not contain bromate. The Environment Agency's monthly program of sampling surface waters will be extended to include locations on the Mimram.

The Environment Agency carries out monitoring designed to detect any change in bromate contamination of surface waters and groundwater. This has shown that the plume of contaminated groundwater is not spreading or changing significantly in concentration.

Sheep: Electronic Tagging

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate his Department has made of the number of sheep in England which will be required to comply with Council Regulation 21/2004 on electronic identification. [230772]

Jane Kennedy: All sheep born on or after 31 December 2009 will need to comply with the rules on electronic identification (EID). However, the legislation provides for a possible derogation whereby those animals born after 31 December 2009 and intended for slaughter by 12 months of age can be identified with a batch tag. We will consult shortly on measures to limit the impact of EID on sheep keepers in England, including the extent to which the slaughter derogation should be adopted.

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost of *(a)* implementing and *(b)* running per annum the measures required under Council Regulation 21/2004 on electronic identification (i) for a flock of sheep of average size and (ii) per sheep. [230773]

Jane Kennedy: The cost of electronic identification (EID) will vary according to the type and scale of farm businesses. Therefore it is not possible to provide a definitive cost of implementing and running the EID scheme.

A draft partial regulatory impact assessment for England is available on the DEFRA website. This document is a work in progress and is currently under review.

Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on taxis in the last financial year for which figures are available. [223031]

Huw Irranca-Davies: From information held centrally, the core-Department's financial system records a VAT inclusive expenditure on taxis in the financial year 2007-08 of £265,529.71. This figure excludes expenditure with the Government Car and Dispatch Agency (GCDA).

Trees

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will fund a long-term monitoring programme of amenity trees. [228384]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has no current plans to fund a long-term monitoring programme of amenity trees.

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to increase separation, collection, recycling and recovery of household decorative paints and garden chemicals. [231006]

Jane Kennedy: In Waste Strategy 2007, the Government endorsed the National Household Hazardous Waste Forum's "Haz Guide", which provides advice on the management of household hazardous waste including paints, solvents and garden chemicals and can be found on the forum's website. We also recognised the good work undertaken by schemes such as "Community RePaint" which encourages the re-use of unwanted paint in local communities and shows what can be achieved on a voluntary basis.

Waste Management

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will place in the Library copies of those papers produced for the Waste 2008 conference held in Stratford upon Avon during 16 and 17 September 2008 held by his Department, the Waste and Resources Action Programme and the Environment Agency. [230197]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste 2008 conference was sponsored by DEFRA, Organics Group plc, Golder Associates (UK) Ltd, Enviros Consulting Ltd and Gerald Eve. The event was also supported by the Environmental Services Association and the Chartered Institution of Wastes Management.

The conference organisers, Waste Conference Ltd, have agreed to provide complementary copies of the proceedings, which I have placed in the Library.

Contributors included in the proceedings are published under the direct responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the opinion of the above named organisations.

Waste Management: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what representations Gloucestershire County Council have made to his Department on applying for private finance initiative credits for its waste strategy. [231557]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to an earlier answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Lewisham, Deptford (Joan Ruddock) on 28 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 9W.

Since then, Gloucestershire county council has submitted a detailed outline business case to DEFRA. This was assessed by DEFRA, after which it was submitted to the Treasury's cross-department Project Review Group in October for consideration. An announcement on this private finance initiative (PFI) application should be made shortly.

Water: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the condition of the water table in London; and if he will make a statement. [231917]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is the statutory body with a duty to manage water resources in England and Wales. The Environment Agency assesses the level of groundwater in London on an annual basis and has done so for the past 15 years. The current report for 2007, available on the Environment Agency's website, shows levels (which are maintained through the active management of abstraction) are at a satisfactory level.

Water: Meters

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of homes have water meters; and what steps his Department is taking to increase that percentage. [231919]

Jane Kennedy: Currently 30 per cent. of households in England have water meters. An independent review of charging and metering for household water and sewerage services is currently assessing the appropriate pace of change so that areas of high water stress increase to near universal metering to ensure continuity of supply.

Water: Shortages

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department and its predecessor has spent on investigations of solutions to water shortages in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the last 10 years. [231129]

Jane Kennedy: Since the privatisation in 1989 of the water industry in England and Wales, the water companies supplying *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Hertfordshire have had duties to ensure that the public water supply is maintained. It is for the companies, not the Government, to investigate solutions to any potential shortfalls and to make the necessary investments. To assist them in identifying the necessary investment, as required by the water industry economic regulator, Ofwat, the companies produced water resources plans in 1999 and 2004. This year the companies consulted on their first statutory plans.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Departmental Training

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has conducted *(a)* an audit of staff skills and *(b)* a strategic skills plan as set out in the FCO Strategic Workforce Plan of November 2007. [225597]

David Miliband: Following the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) Strategy Refresh, we conducted earlier this year a detailed audit of the skills needed to deliver the FCO's new Departmental Strategic Objectives. This involved both identifying the key skills required and defining existing levels of proficiency. We are evaluating these results and doing further work with specialist skill-sets.

The FCO's skills delivery plan consists of a number of elements: new training (both classroom and e-learning) to meet the requirement for new skills; a self-assessment tool to enable staff to identify potential career options and the skills and levels of proficiency required; and a new skill framework that builds on Professional Skills for Government competency standards and is tailored to fit the skills particularly important to delivery of the FCO's objectives now and in the future.

European External Action Service

Mr. Francois: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers' report on the COREPER meetings on the European External Action Service held on 7 and 13 May; [223277]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 533W, on the European External Action Service, whether the Government holds a copy of the European Commission's report on the COREPER meetings on the European External Action Service held on 7 and 13 May 2008; and if he will ask the European Commission to make copies of that report available to hon. Members. [223373]

Caroline Flint: We do not hold copies of these reports. Neither document is a UK originated document, but rather internal to the European Commission and the Council Secretariat respectively.

Gibraltar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the Government of Gibraltar received from the European Union in 2007. [229122]

Caroline Flint: In 2007, Gibraltar was allocated €780,000 from the European regional development fund and €452,000 from the European social fund.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Spanish counterpart on Gibraltar in the last six months. [229125]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Spanish Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Moratinos on 2 July at a meeting of the Trilateral Forum of Dialogue on Gibraltar. The Foreign Secretary, Señor Moratinos and the Chief Minister of Gibraltar discussed a range of Gibraltar issues covering implementation of the Cordoba agreements and new areas of trilateral co-operation.

The Foreign Secretary routinely meets the Spanish Foreign Minister at General Affairs and External Relations Council (GAERC) meetings. Discussions in the margins of the GAERC have covered a range of international issues including some specific issues relating to Gibraltar such as Spanish military restrictions.

We make clear that the UK will not enter into a process of sovereignty negotiations with which Gibraltar is not content.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what endangered animal species exist in Gibraltar; and what steps are being taken to protect them. [229151]

Caroline Flint: This is a matter for the Government of Gibraltar. The request for information may be directed to the Government of Gibraltar Office in London in the first instance.

Horn of Africa: Conflict Resolution

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government support proposals to create a regional conflict resolution mechanism for conflicts in the Horn of Africa; and if he will make a statement. [225593]

David Miliband: We are not aware of any specific proposals to create a regional conflict mechanism for conflicts in the Horn of Africa. However, we stand ready to support any internationally or locally generated proposals which contribute to resolving the regional conflicts in the Horn of Africa through constructive and unbiased mechanisms. In this context we welcome the Intergovernmental Authority for Development summit on 27 October and look forward to it reaching positive conclusions for the people of Somalia.

India: Sikhs

Rob Marris: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the government of India on the recent *(a)* violence against Sikhs in India and *(b)* mass arrests of Sikhs in India. [221518]

Bill Rammell: We have not made any bilateral representations to the Government of India on these specific issues. It is the Government's long-standing policy that there is no justification for acts of violence against individuals because of their faith and religion. When the issue of freedom of religion came up at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in Delhi on 15 February, the EU collectively expressed its concerns about violent attacks against all minority groups in India. The Government will continue to pay close attention to incidents of religious intolerance and will work with the Government of India in supporting their efforts to address minority rights issues.

Indonesia: Peacekeeping Operations

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much funding the British Embassy in Jakarta, Indonesia *(a)* loaned and *(b)* gave to the EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission; and whether any such loans have been repaid (i) with and (ii) without interest. [226993]

Gillian Merron: The common costs of the EU-led Aceh Monitoring Mission (AMM), which ran from 15 September 2005 to 15 December 2006, were financed by the EU's CFSP budget and voluntary contributions from member states. The total Common Foreign and Security Policy (CFSP) budget to run the Mission was 9.3 million euros of which the UK contributed 17 per cent. or 1.58 million euros.

In addition, the UK funded the secondment of nine monitors and three military staff officers, and made a voluntary contribution of £60,000 towards the Mission's common costs. This total contribution of £603,689 was funded from the peacekeeping budget of the Treasury's central reserve.

To help finance the initial start up of the AMM, a loan of US dollars 21,313.80 for medical insurance for the international monitors was made by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office for the period 14 to 26 September 2005. This money was refunded by the AMM on 11 October 2005. No interest was paid.

Our embassy in Jakarta also supported the peace process through a project called "Aceh Sport for Peace". It contributed £3,357 to help bring the parties together through sporting events.

Iran: Females

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Iran on the status of women in that country. [204324]

Bill Rammell: Iranian leaders argue that the situation of women in Iran is better than in other countries in the region and are rightly proud that women make up over half of all university students. However, women remain largely excluded from positions of authority, and gender based inequality is widespread and reinforced by Iranian law. We are particularly concerned by the treatment of Iranian women connected to the Campaign for Equality (which aims to collect 1 million signatures on a petition demanding changes to discriminatory laws and educate women about their rights). Many, throughout the country, have been arrested for peaceful activities in support of the campaign and sentenced to prison terms or flogging sentences on charges such as 'acting against national security' and 'propaganda against the system'. The Campaign's website has been blocked by the Iranian authorities 16 times. With the EU, we continue to make our concerns about this known to the Iranian authorities, and have done so at least four times this year. In a public declaration issued on 6 August the EU condemned the arrest of three women's rights activists arrested in Kurdistan province and called on the Iranian authorities to

> "release these activists unconditionally as soon as possible and to drop all charges against them and other activists of the One Million Signatures campaign who are still under investigation or arrest".

The EU condemned this persecution and intimidation once again in a human rights démarche delivered on 6 October, and called for the release of 16 detained women's rights activists connected to the campaign.

Iran: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Iran on human rights. [204316]

Bill Rammell: We have serious concerns about Iran's poor human rights record. Together with the EU, we remain committed to raising these concerns regularly with the Iranian Government and continue to press them to work towards international human rights standards and fulfilment of their obligations under UN human rights conventions. We have done so more than 30 times this year in bilateral and EU meetings with the Iranian authorities and in public declarations. Senior Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised concerns about the execution of juvenile offenders, during the visit of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister Safari in September. The most recent EU human rights demarche, covering the full range of concerns, was delivered by the EU presidency on 6 October in Paris, as Iran is becoming increasingly reluctant to receive representations about human rights in Tehran. Recent EU statements have focussed on juvenile execution cases, the situation of religious and ethnic minorities, and the proposed draft penal code which, if adopted, would set out a mandatory death sentence for apostasy. We will continue to monitor the situation closely and speak out about human rights violations in Iran.

Iran: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to engage with the democratic Opposition in Iran. [204317]

Bill Rammell: Encouraging respect for fundamental human rights and political freedoms remains a key element of our Iran policy. We do not get involved in Iran's internal political debates, as these are for Iranians themselves to resolve, but together with the EU we continue to promote the internationally recognised principles to which so many Iranians aspire including freedom of speech and transparent, genuinely democratic and accountable government. Our work to assist the development of civil society around the world will continue in support of this goal. We have concerns that Iran's electoral processes do not allow for truly competitive elections or democratic opposition, and have urged the Iranian Government to give their citizens a genuine democratic choice about their country's future, and the opportunity to choose from the full range of candidates.

Iraq: Asylum

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 10 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1826W, on Iraq: asylum, what the average time taken has been to process an application under *(a)* the Gateway Protection Programme and *(b)* the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme. [219742]

Bill Rammell: The Locally Employed Staff assistance scheme offers staff a number of different forms of assistance depending on the circumstances of their employment, including the opportunity of resettlement in the UK, or financial assistance. The time it takes to grant this assistance varies according to the type of assistance sought. The length of time taken to grant each kind of assistance can also vary significantly between different cases: in many cases eligibility can be assessed very quickly, but sometimes we may require more information from applicants, or need to carry out checks to substantiate claims, particularly if those concerned left our employ some time ago.

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many applications for financial assistance under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance scheme have been approved; how much financial assistance has been *(a)* authorised and *(b)* distributed in relation to these applications; how many of the applications for financial assistance included claims for dependants; what the total number of claims was for dependants; and what the total amount of extra financial assistance granted to those applicants was as a result. [227954]

Bill Rammell: A total of 349 applications for financial assistance under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme have so far been approved. US $2,480,988 has been authorised in financial assistance packages of which US $2,418,552 has been paid.

23 applicants from former and current Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff and eight from former and current Department for International Development (DFID) staff have included dependants in their claims. Payments totalling US $86,360 have been made in respect of 79 dependants claimed by former and current FCO staff. Payments totalling US $29,850 have been made in respect of 19 dependants claimed by former and current DFID staff.

The Ministry of Defence (MOD) has approved payment of US $1,837,740 to a total of 318 former and current staff of which US $1,795,994 has been paid. The information on MOD dependant numbers and costs is not held centrally and could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Israel: Detainees

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Israeli authorities over the detention and subsequent treatment of Mohammed Omer. [222837]

Bill Rammell: We understand that the Israeli authorities carried out an investigation and concluded that there was no evidence to support Mr. Omer's accusations, although they did confirm that Mr. Omer was hospitalised after fainting. We have not seen a copy of their report, but our embassy in Tel Aviv has written to the Israeli government to raise our concerns about this case and we await a reply.

Macedonia: EU Enlargement

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what support the Government are giving to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in its candidate status to join the European Union; and if he will make a statement. [228287]

Caroline Flint: The Government strongly support Macedonia's aspirations to join the European Union. It was under the UK Presidency that the Republic of Macedonia was granted candidate status in December 2005. Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff work closely with North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and EU partners, including the EU Special Representative, to encourage Macedonia to move forward towards EU membership by making the reforms needed to meet the Copenhagen political criteria and the conditions set out in the Stabilisation and Association Process.

The Government provide on-going financial support to a range of projects that seek to encourage progress in the priority areas set out in Macedonia's Accession Partnership, through our Strategic Programme Fund (Reuniting Europe). In 2008-09, this fund is channelling around £860,000 to projects that include work to: improve Macedonia's administrative, policy and strategic capacity for joining the EU; strengthen the parliament and its capacity to scrutinise legislation; help fight corruption; and improve the business environment and tackle unemployment.

Other Government funds are delivering around £640,000 of support in areas such as police reform that are very relevant to the EU integration process and help ensure continued stability. We look forward to Macedonia's continued progress and its membership of the EU when it is ready.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has made to the Government of Sri Lanka on its opposition to the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights' proposal to establish a UN field presence in the country for monitoring and reporting; and if he will make a statement. [225595]

David Miliband: My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, made clear to the UN Human Rights Council in March the UK's support for a stronger mandate and presence for the UN Human Rights Mission in Sri Lanka. My noble Friend reiterated the UK's concerns over the observance of human rights in Sri Lanka to President Rajapakse, his Ministers and senior officials during his visit to Sri Lanka this summer and urged them to strengthen human rights mechanisms.

Taliban

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has engaged in talks with the Taliban in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan. [227982]

Bill Rammell: The Government have not engaged in talks with the Taliban in either Afghanistan or Pakistan. However, the UK does support President Karzai and his Government in their efforts to reconcile all parties to Afghanistan's democratic constitution and to bring disaffected Afghans into society's mainstream, providing they renounce violence and accept Afghanistan's constitution. In Pakistan, the UK is working to support the Government of Pakistan's 'multi-pronged' strategy to tackle militancy in the tribal belt, including development, governance reform and security measures. As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear during his visit to Pakistan in April this year, we support the Government of Pakistan's plans to reconcile with people who are willing to participate in politics in a non-violent way. Such reconciliation should be designed to marginalise those who are using extremist means for ideological reasons.

United Arab Emirates: Nuclear Power

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will place in the Library a copy of the June 2008 Memorandum of Understanding on nuclear energy between the UK and the United Arab Emirates. [225594]

David Miliband: We are happy to do so and have confirmed with the Abu Dhabi authorities that they are too, consistent with the United Arab Emirates Government's welcome commitment to maximising confidence and transparency in the development of their civil nuclear programme.

Wouter Basson

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will list the occasions on which UK authorities have interviewed Wouter Basson with the permission of the South African authorities; and if he will make a statement. [227346]

Bill Rammell: I am not aware of any occasions on which British officials have formally interviewed Wouter Basson. When the Government became aware of allegations that South Africa had an offensive Chemical and Biological Weapons (CBW) programme, UK experts visited South Africa to obtain a clearer assessment of the programmes which had been halted by the South African authorities in 1992. This included meetings at which Basson, as the senior scientist involved, was present.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he and his predecessors have received of the trial of Wouter Basson in South Africa in 2000. [227351]

Bill Rammell: Diplomatic reporting and other correspondence relating to the 1999-2002 trial of Wouter Basson in South Africa was routinely copied to a number of interested Government Departments at the time, including No. 10. As the trial concluded in 2002, my right hon. Friends the current Prime Minister, the current Foreign Secretary, and his predecessor (the Minister for Housing and Planning), have not received reports of the trial.

Yemen: Piracy

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many acts of piracy off the coast of Yemen *(a)* were recorded in 2007 and *(b)* have been recorded to date in 2008; and what assistance the UK has given to the Government of Yemen to tackle such acts. [225592]

David Miliband: There were 60 recorded incidents of piracy in this area during 2007, 48 of which were registered as attempts and 12 were actual boardings. Up until the end of September this year, there have been 75 recorded incidents, 36 of which were registered as attempts and 39 were actual boardings. The Government are assisting the Government of Yemen to develop its programmes to counter threats to the maritime border.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he last discussed the security situation in Yemen with his American counterpart; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [225587]

David Miliband: My right hon. Friend, the then Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, my right hon. Friend the Member for Pontypridd (Dr. Howells), discussed the security situation with the American authorities in May 2008 during his last visit to Yemen.

Yemen: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of links between terrorist groups operating in Yemen and terrorist groups operating in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Pakistan; and if he will make a statement. [225588]

David Miliband: We judge it likely that terrorist groups operating in Yemen receive strategic direction from terrorist groups operating in Afghanistan and Pakistan, and that there are probably facilitation links between terrorist groups in the tribal areas of Pakistan and Afghanistan, and terrorist groups in Yemen.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the Yemeni Government's implementation of the requirements in UN Security Council Resolutions 1737 (2001) and 1377 (2001) on the suppression of terrorism; and if he will make a statement. [225590]

David Miliband: The Government of Yemen has committed publicly to combating terrorism both inside and outside Yemen. It has conducted several successful operations, including against members of Al-Qaida in Yemen, most recently in August. This operation resulted in the death of a high-profile terrorist suspect, Hamza al-Qaiti.

We are working with the Government of Yemen to counter the threat of terrorism to the UK from Yemen and to UK interests in Yemen. In the short-term we are focused on protecting British interests in a volatile security environment. In the longer-term we are developing joint work on preventing terrorism by tackling the radicalisation of individuals and reducing the threat to the UK and UK interests through disrupting terrorists and their operations.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Yemeni counterpart on the arrest of Abdul Majid al-Zindani. [225591]

David Miliband: Abdul Majid al-Zindani has not been arrested. There has been no discussion with the Yemenis on this subject.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people were undertaking an apprenticeship in each year since 1997; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of people who will be undertaking an apprenticeship in each of the next five years. [232017]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of people that have started on an apprenticeship from 1997 to 2006/07, the latest year for which fully audited data is available. Information for 2007/08 is due to be published in a statistical first release in December 2008.

Information on future apprenticeships starts are due to be made available next month through the Annual Statement of Priorities published by the Learning and Skills Council. This will include latest estimates of the actual starts for the 2007/08 academic year, and proposals for delivery during 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. Resources have not yet been made available beyond that period.

Table 1: Apprenticeship Starts, 1997/98 to 2006/07

	Number
1997/98	75,000
1998/99	118,000
1999/2000	165,000
2000/01	177,000
2001/02	162,000
2002/03	204,000
2003/04	194,000
2004/05	189,000
2005/06	175,000
2006/07	184,000

Notes:

1. These figures represent learners starting an apprenticeship or an advanced apprenticeship. Additionally, there are a very small number of higher level apprenticeships included in the 2006/07 total.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

Source:

WBL ILR/ISR.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what representations he has received on apprenticeships which might be terminated because of job losses and company failures in the current economic climate; and if he will make a statement. [232276]

Mr. Simon: We are aware that in some construction companies apprenticeship places are at risk and my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met major representatives of the construction industry in August to discuss what we might do to protect such apprentices. As a result, the Learning and Skills Council in partnership with the sector skills body, ConstructionSkills, has established a service to help construction apprentices at risk of losing their jobs find a new employer or place them in a full-time construction training place while an employer is found for them. I and my ministerial colleagues are actively engaging with employers to ensure that if we need to intervene in other areas we will be prepared to respond flexibly to promote and support apprenticeships.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226503]

Mr. Simon: The information is not available in the format requested as the Department does not separately identify its suppliers as small or medium-sized businesses. The proportions of valid invoices for all goods and services procured and paid within 30 days of receipt by the Department and its agencies in 2007-08 are as follows:

	Percentage
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills	99.4
National Weights and Measures Laboratory	97.0
UK Intellectual Property Office	98.2

Source:

Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 for each of the aforementioned bodies.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 32-33WS, on Education (Student Support) Regulations, when his Department will identify the £1.5 billion of cash-releasing efficiency savings referred to. [232740]

Mr. Lammy: The Department published its Value for Money Delivery Agreement for the CSR period in December 2007. This set out how it plans to achieve cash releasing savings of £1.5 billion over the period. The delivery strategy includes increasing co-funding from the private sector, reprioritising spend, and achieving improved procurement and shared services by its delivery partners.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its Executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226810]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on how much was spent on recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising to recruit staff prior to this date is not held by the Department.

In 2007-08, the Department spent £243,548 in total on recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising to recruit staff. The recruitment consultants employed by the Department for those purposes include KMC international, Kay Management Consultants Ltd. and Capita Resourcing Ltd.

National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) spent the following over the last five financial years on recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising.

	Advertising (£)	*Consultants (£)*
2003-04	1,900	—
2004-05	6,600	—
2005-06	1,700	—
2006-07	12,600	—
2007-08	7,900	3,200

NWML did not use external bodies to undertake its external recruitment advertising. It employed Reed Personnel Services plc. as recruitment consultants in 2007-08 for a one-off exercise.

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) spent the following amounts on recruitment consultants and on external recruitment advertising over the last five financial years.

	Advertising (£)	*Consultants (£)*
2003-04	18,065	65,157
2004-05	12,718	7,320
2005-06	16,988	123,340
2006-07	56,502	0
2007-08	15,247	0

The consultants used were Capita Resourcing Ltd. in 2003-04. In the other years, the consultants were Penna. The UKIPO did not use external bodies to undertake its external recruitment advertising.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trade unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229105]

Mr. Simon: The Department was created on 28 June 2008 and since then nobody has been seconded to a trade union or to the Trades Union Congress.

In common with other Departments and agencies, my Department does provide agreed time off and facilities for trade union representatives to take part in trade union duties, activities and training.

Education: Prisons

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on the offender learning and skills service in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [2323[illegible]3]

Mr. Simon: The offender learning and skills service was introduced in August 2005 in three regions, before being rolled out across England in August 2006. Following machinery of Government changes in June 2007, funding for the offender learning and skills service, previously from the Department for Education and Skills vote, was divided between the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The following figures set out spending by the Learning and Skills Council on offender skills and employment in prisons and young offender institutions, and on specific provision for offenders in the community.

Offender learning and skills service spend

£

	Financial year		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Custody	25,393,061	82,962,319	118,035,194
Community	9,381,000	9,381,000	9,381,000
Total	[1]34,674,061	[1]92,343,319	[2]127,416,194

[1] Department for Education and Skills.

[2] Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills and for Children, Schools and Families.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many postgraduate students were studying for *(a)* doctorates, *(b)* Masters degrees and *(c)* other postgraduate qualifications in the latest period for which figures are available, broken down by socio-economic group. [232259]

Mr. Lammy: Figures are given in the following table. The latest period for which figures are available is the 2006/07 academic year; figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in January 2009.

Socio-Economic Classification information is not available for postgraduate students.

Postgraduate enrolments[1] by qualification aim, English higher education institutions, 2006/07 academic year

Qualification aim	*Enrolments*
Doctorates	80,490
Masters	260,305
Other postgraduate qualifications	121,635
Total postgraduate qualifications	462,430

[1] Figures cover postgraduate enrolments from all domiciles on full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on widening participation in higher education in each year since 1999-2000; and how much has been spent on *(a)* outreach activity to raise aspirations and attainment among potential students, *(b)* improving retention and *(c)* widening access and improving provision for students with disabilities in each of these years. [232264]

Mr. Lammy: This Government remain fully committed to widening access to higher education for people from disadvantaged backgrounds. Widening access requires long term investment and change across the higher education (HE) system. We have reformed student financial support and continued to invest in the Aimhigher Programme, which helps to attract young people into HE from backgrounds which are currently under-represented. There is evidence that we are making steady progress: for example, the proportion of UK domiciled, young, full-time, first degree entrants to English higher education institutions who were from lower socio-economic groups rose from 27.9 per cent. in 2002/03 to 29.8 per cent. in 2006/07.

Expenditure from 1999-2000 on widening participation is as follows:

Figures are £m

	1999-2000	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Aimhigher and predecessors[1, 2]	—	—	50	70	120	136	102	87	80
Additional HE summer schools	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Regional Projects and other early activity[3]	10	12	5	5	—	—	—	—	—
Student support[4]	1,761	1,507	1,213	1,096	1,084	1,410	1,411	1,634	1,962
Widening participation allocation[5] (see breakdown in following table)	20	31	37	48	266	273	284	345	356
University bursaries and outreach[6]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	96	[7]—
Total[8]	1,791	1,550	1,295	1,209	1,460	1,819	1,797	2,162	[7]—

[1] The unified Aimhigher programme was introduced in 2004. Predecessor programmes were Excellence Challenge, funded by the then Department for Education and Skills, and Partnerships for Progression, funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Learning and Skills Council (LSC). Aimhigher is funded jointly by DIUS, HEFCE, the LSC and the Department for Health. Includes allocations for Aimhigher Associates (£3 million in 2008-09, £9 million in 2009-10, and £9 million in 2010-11).

[2] Excellence Challenge included Opportunity Bursaries. These were grants to eligible people from lower income families and were worth £2,000 over three years. From September 2001, 26,000 such bursaries were made available at a total cost of £37 million. With the wider reintroduction of grants in 2006, the Opportunity Bursary scheme was withdrawn.

[3] Funded by HEFCE.

[4] Includes student loans RAB charge, fee loans, student support grants, maintenance grant, HE grant, grants for vulnerable students, tuition fee grants, grants for part-time students and access funds and bursaries. The student loans RAB charge estimates the future cost to Government of subsidising and writing off the student loans issued in that year; it does not represent the amount of cash lent to students, which has risen each year since the introduction of student loans. Figures for 1997 to 2007 are outturn; that for 2007-08 is estimated outturn; and those for 2008 to 11 are plans.

[5] These figures also include the allocations for improving the retention of non-traditional students, and to widen access and improve provision for disabled students. The figure for 2008-09 is provisional.

[6] The Office for Fair Access forecasts that around £300 million annually will be spent by higher education providers on bursaries and scholarships benefiting students from low-income and other under-represented groups by the academic year 2008/09.

[7] Not yet available.

[8] In 2001 to 2004, Aimhigher contributed £10 million a year towards the widening participation allocation. The figure given as the total for each of these years is therefore less than the sum of the parts to avoid double counting.

Widening participation allocation breakdown

Amount	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Outreach	n/a	24,260,750	28,321,872	37,953,557	37,662,067	49,603,560	51,053,366	92,269,312	97,330,636
Retention	n/a	—	—	—	78,325,250	213,236,862	220,924,080	239,891,585	245,934,377
Disability	n/a	7,015,514	8,694,761	9,699,450	10,043,420	10,520,776	12,329,861	12,911,354	13,044,347
Total	19,874,614	31,276,264	37,016,633	47,653,007	265,891,026	273,361,198	284,307,307	345,072,251	356,309,360

Higher Education: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on further education for those over 19 years of age in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [232394]

Mr. Simon: Expenditure by the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) on adult further education (FE) and skills from 2002-03 to 2007-08 is set out in the following table which is based on the figures in the 2008 Departmental Report. Within this funding some of the resource supports the wider FE sector including pre-19 education and training, in the role which DIUS has as sponsor of the FE service.

Expenditure on adult further education and skills

£ million

	Outturn					*Estimated outturn*
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Adult Further Education and Skills	3,863	4,180	4,269	4,385	4,235	4,642
Breakdown of total						
Learning and Skills Council (Adult FE and Skills)[1]	3,447	3,798	3,852	3,989	3,853	4,192

Expenditure on adult further education and skills

						£ million
	Outturn					*Estimated outturn*
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Including:						
LSC 19+ Further Education	1,726	1,882	1,902	2,011	1,915	1,874
LSC Ufi/Learnerdirect	115	194	169	201	171	156
LSC Apprenticeships and Work Based Learning	211	213	243	232	218	263
LSC Train to Gain	7	33	89	142	194	331
LSC Adult Safeguarded Learning	198	225	241	229	222	221
LSC Offender Learning and Skills Service	0	0	9	35	101	115
LSC DIUS Learner Support and Development	719	706	562	477	420	487
LSC 19+ Capital	217	279	393	376	397	465
Funding not routed through the LSC[2]						
Adult Education and Skills Strategy	245	172	182	191	168	176
Career Development Loans (non-LSC element)[3]	14	14	16	2	2	2
Union Learning Fund (non-LSC element)[3]	7	2	2	2	5	18
Ufi Learndirect (non-LSC element)[3]	50	45	13	0	0	0
Offenders' Learning and Skills (non-LSC element)[3]	59	101	105	92	36	21
FE Improvement (formerly Post-16 Standards)	13	21	53	73	127	158
Other miscellaneous programmes	27	27	46	36	45	75

[1] This line covers funding which the LSC manages on DIUS policies for adult FE and skills.

[2] The majority of funding for FE and Skills is managed by the LSC. In addition the following funding is not routed through LSC, although the LSC also manages some funding on these programmes which is included in the LSC line.

[3] These lines do not show the full expenditure on these programmes as some expenditure is included in the LSC line above. In particular where funding reduces significantly, this is because funding has been transferred to LSC and expenditure is included in the LSC line above.

Source: Annex 2 of the DIUS 2008 Departmental Report, Tables 11 and 12.

Languages

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on English for Speakers of Other Languages lessons in each year between 2001 and 2007. [230369]

Mr. Simon: Since 2001, the Government have funded English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Skills for Life strategy as part of the Learning and Skills Council's overall adult skills budget.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) calculates the total amounts spent on Skills for Life ESOL as follows:

	£ million
2000/01	103
2001/02	185
2002/03	235
2003/04	267
2004/05	289
2005/06	298
2006/07	289

Scholarships: Overseas Students

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* membership and *(b)* terms of reference are for the departmental working group that is being established on scholarships for international students. [229009]

Caroline Flint: I have been asked to reply.

The proposed members who have confirmed an interest so far are the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, the Department for International Development, UK Trade and Investment, the Scottish Executive, Universities UK, the Russell Group, the Higher Education Funding Council for England, the Commonwealth Scholarships Commission and the British Council.

The draft terms of reference have not yet been finalised.

Science and Innovation Network

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking in conjunction with other Government Departments to increase awareness of the Science and Innovation Network among *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* others. [231548]

Mr. Lammy: The role of tasking and managing the Science and Innovation Network was transferred from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office to the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills on 1 July 2008. DIUS and the FCO fund a joint management team located in DIUS. Officials from this joint DIUS/FCO team and from the Science and Innovation Network maintain close links with the Parliamentary Office of Science and Technology, and with them organise occasional briefings for hon. Members on the work of the Network. The last such presentation was on 7 November 2007. DIUS officials use a number of mechanisms to increase awareness of the Science and Innovation Network with other stakeholders, including publishing an annual report, promoting the work of the Network through such as the Global Science and Innovation Forum, and bilateral meetings with key stakeholders.

Small Businesses: Training

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to assist small businesses with improving the skills of their workforces. [227370]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: On 21 October my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State announced that small businesses will be the focus of £350 million of Government funds to help them train their staff. The new package of support that this will deliver will help small businesses get through the tougher economic climate by building the skills and expertise of their workers. The funding will be drawn from the Train to Gain programme, funding for which is planned to rise to £1 billion by 2010-11. In allocating the planned increase in spending on this programme over the next two years, we will give top priority to meeting demand from small businesses in the private sector.

The key elements of the £350 million package are:

Relaxing the rules to allow funding for "bite-sized chunks"—small units or modules of qualifications in subjects known to be important to small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), such as business improvement, team-working, customer service, and risk management;

Help for groups of SMEs located together in business parks so that they can increase their purchasing power and share resources to support the training of local SME staff;

Extending DIUS's successful leadership and management programme so that more SMEs can benefit from it, including in companies with just five to 10 workers;

Relaxing the rules to allow workers to get training up to level 2 even if they already have a previous qualification at this level; and more funding for level 3 training;

Brokers to offer tried and tested skills diagnostics and audits so companies can have their training needs more accurately identified; and point SMEs to the right solutions from the most appropriate providers;

A new communications campaign to begin next month to underline the benefits of upskilling and reskilling and the breadth of the support on offer from Government.

Student Wastage

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what progress has been made on the grant programme for evaluating institutional practice relating to student retention in higher education; and whether any awards have been determined to date. [232265]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), together with the Paul Hamlyn Foundation, have awarded a total of £1 million in grants to higher education institutions to evaluate and disseminate aspects of their retention work. Seven projects are being funded, involving 21 institutions, each looking at a different aspect of student retention, and these projects are now underway.

More than half of all HE institutions submitted proposals for the programme, demonstrating the importance the sector attaches to improving student retention. The Higher Education Academy and Action on Access are providing additional support to the programme, to help to ensure effective co-ordination and maximum impact across the HE sector.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of first degree undergraduates with a parental household income of around *(a)* £25,000, *(b)* £30,000, *(c)* £40,000, *(d)* £50,000, *(e)* £60,000 and *(f)* £70,000; [232386]

(2) how many of the October 2008 cohort of undergraduates entering higher education were from each decile of parental household income. [232387]

Mr. Lammy: Complete information on household incomes of students is not available centrally.

Students: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been awarded to undergraduates who are the children of parents registered as non-domiciled through the student grants system in each year for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [232424]

Mr. Lammy: There are no figures available relating to the awards of student support made to the children of non-domiciled parents. Information about the parents of students is not routinely gathered.

To qualify for student support a person needs to be personally eligible by satisfying criteria based on their residence, immigration and, in some cases, nationality status.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what regulations are in place governing the awarding of undergraduate grants to the children of parents registered as non-domiciled; and if he will make a statement. [232425]

Mr. Lammy: The Education (Student Support) Regulations 2008 lay down the eligibility criteria which students need to satisfy in order to qualify for student support.

To qualify for student support a person needs to be personally eligible by satisfying criteria based on their own residence, immigration and, in some cases, nationality status.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of undergraduates who are the children of parents registered as non-domiciled and have received student grants in each year for which records are available; and if he will make a statement. [232426]

Mr. Lammy: The information is not available.

Information about the parents of students is not routinely gathered. There are no figures available relating to the number of children of non-domiciled parents claiming student support.

To qualify for student support a person needs to be personally eligible by satisfying criteria based on their own residence, immigration and, in some cases, nationality status.

Train to Gain Programme

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Train to Gain programme cost in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by main budget heading. [232388]

Mr. Simon: Latest data show that, since it was launched in April 2006, over 101,000 employers have engaged with Train to Gain, with over 290,000 learners achieving a qualification. Train to Gain expenditure was almost £313 million. A breakdown by budget heading is provided in the following table:

Budget heading	*2007-08 spend (£000)*
Delivery	256,034
Brokerage	38,630
Level 3 Pilots	5,574
Higher Skills for Women	2,416
Marketing	9,652
Evaluation	653
Total	312,959

Source:
Learning and Skills Council Accounts 2007-08

Video Games: Training

Mr. Whittingdale: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent representations he has received on shortages of people with the necessary skills for employment in the video games development industry; and if he will make a statement. [232309]

Mr. Lammy: The video games industry is an important and innovative sector of the UK economy. Officials from my Department are actively discussing with TIGA, the national trade association representing the video games industry, a range of issues including the shortage of skilled recruits. We are encouraging the sector to work closely with the relevant Sector Skills Councils and with Higher Education Institutions to address their skill needs. In particular we have suggested that the industry should explore the potential of Foundation Degrees or Employer Co-funding in addition to graduate recruitment. We are also interested in promoting opportunities for undergraduates to obtain work experience and we are exploring with the industry what more we can do to encourage staff exchanges.

Vocational Training

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when his Department will be bringing forward proposals to introduce a statutory right to request adult training from April 2010. [232403]

Mr. Simon: The consultation on the right to request time to train was launched on 18 June 2008 and closed on 10 September 2008. We are currently analysing the consultation responses and will publish the results before the end of the year. Subject to the outcome of the consultation, we plan to introduce legislation on the right to request time to train in the 4th session Employment and Skills Bill, scheduled for introduction in January 2009.

Young People: Unemployment

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what percentage of *(a)* 16, *(b)* 17, *(c)* 18, *(d)* 19, *(e)* 20, *(f)* 21, *(g)* 22, *(h)* 23 and *(i)* 24 year olds were not in employment, education or training in each of the last five years. [232263]

Mr. Simon: The following tables show estimates from the Labour Force Survey for England for the second quarter of each year of the numbers and percentage not in education, employment or training (NEET) for each age from 16 to 24.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET), by age, England

Number

		Age								
		16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*
Q2	2003	51,000	67,000	86,000	74,000	75,000	89,000	84,000	96,000	86,000
Q2	2004	50,000	54,000	87,000	82,000	73,000	80,000	85,000	96,000	90,000
Q2	2005	60,000	64,000	81,000	86,000	84,000	100,000	92,000	92,000	112,000
Q2	2006	56,000	73,000	105,000	98,000	89,000	113,000	121,000	105,000	93,000
Q2	2007	56,000	67,000	99,000	93,000	94,000	119,000	104,000	101,000	101,000
Q2	2008	45,000	65,000	99,000	92,000	113,000	103,000	115,000	114,000	94,000

Percentage

		Age								
		16	*17*	*18*	*19*	*20*	*21*	*22*	*23*	*24*
Q2	2003	8.3	10.4	14.4	12.6	12.8	15.1	14.1	15.0	16.2
Q2	2004	7.7	9.0	13.7	13.9	12.0	14.2	13.3	15.1	15.2
Q2	2005	9.2	9.8	13.5	13.4	13.4	15.3	14.9	15.1	17.2
Q2	2006	9.0	10.8	16.0	15.0	14.2	18.2	18.0	16.4	15.1
Q2	2007	8.7	10.5	14.9	14.1	14.5	17.8	15.7	15.1	16.5
Q2	2008	7.0	9.7	15.1	13.9	16.6	15.2	17.0	15.7	15.0

Notes:
1. Age quoted is the respondent's academic age, which is defined as their age at the preceding 31 August.
2. Estimates from the Labour Force Survey are subject to sampling error. The figures should therefore be treated with caution.
Source:
Labour Force Survey Q2 (April to June) of each year.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: *To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) for how many children who were (a) white, (b) mixed race, (c) Asian or Asian British, (d) black or black British and (e) of other ethnic groups, it was decided that adoption was in their best interests in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority;* [232616]

(2) how many children who were (a) white, (b) mixed race, (c) Asian or Asian British, (d) black or black British and (e) of other ethnic groups, were adopted in each of the last 10 years, broken down by local authority. [232617]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Information on the date a decision is made that adoption is in the best interest is currently only collected retrospectively for those looked after children who are adopted. We currently do not collect information on when the decision is made for those children that are placed for adoption. However we have made a change to our data collection from 2008-09 which will mean from autumn 2009 we are able to provide this information for children when the decision is made, irrespective of whether the adoption has taken place.

Information is published on the number of looked after children adopted by local authority. However this cannot be broken down by ethnicity due to data disclosure reasons. The number of children adopted in the year ending 31 March 2007 is just over 3,000. Breaking this down by local authority (see table LAE1) and then again by ethnicity would produce very small numbers and would result in most of the figures being suppressed with a hyphen (-). It may be possible to produce figures by local authority and ethnicity by region but we would be able to provide this only at a disproportionate cost.

The available information by local authority can be found in table LAE1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 27/2007) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2007'. This shows the number of looked after children adopted during the years ending 31 March 2003 to 2007.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000741/index.shtml

and table LAE1 can be found within the second set of Excel tables on the website.

This table includes information for the last five years. Information for each of the last 10 years can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Information for the year ending 31 March 2008 will be released in our set of additional tables which we are planning to publish in December.

The available information at a National level on characteristics of looked after children who are adopted can be found in table E1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of Looked after Children adopted during the years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008 by gender, age at adoption, ethnic origin, category of need, final legal status, duration of final period of care and age on starting final period of care.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table E1 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website.

Arts: Education

Mr. Gibb: *To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance his Department has issued to Ofsted in respect of creative learning.* [232779]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has not issued specific guidance to Ofsted in respect of creative learning. It does however regularly engage with Ofsted on this and other policy matters so that HM Chief Inspector can consider any implications for inspection.

Ofsted is undertaking a self-standing thematic survey of creativity across the school curriculum during 2008-09.

Children's Services Authorities: Equality

John Bercow: *To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what mechanisms exist for assessing the content and effectiveness of children's services authorities' (a) disability and (b) race equality schemes.* [231594]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Joint Area Reviews and Annual Performance Assessment of children's services consider the arrangements that local authorities and their partners have put in place to secure race and disability equality for children and young people. This includes ensuring that race and disability equality schemes are in place and that there is evidence that the strategies and actions agreed are securing equality of opportunity for these children and young people.

Joint Area Reviews include a detailed assessment and grade for the contribution of local services to improving outcomes for children and young people with disabilities and or learning difficulties. Where areas of weakness in race equality and other areas are identified then the JAR can include focused investigations into these issues.

Joint Area Reviews and Annual Performance Assessments conclude in 2008-09 and are replaced by the Comprehensive Area Assessment, a new performance assessment framework, within which diversity will be promoted and assessments produced of arrangements for disability and race equality with identification of those services that need to improve. The Audit Commission is currently finalising its proposals for the new assessment. Ofsted is currently consulting on its role in Comprehensive Area Assessments in assessing children's services.

Curriculum

Dr. Kumar: *To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his policy is on the extent to which the curriculum taught in publicly-funded schools should be determined centrally.* [232786]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Our policy is for all pupils, irrespective of background or ability, to have an entitlement to a core of learning set out in the National Curriculum statutory Programmes of Study. It is the role of Government to decide the overall aims, values, principles and subject requirements of the National Curriculum, to ensure that all young people are prepared for their future role in society.

Within this statutory framework, schools have the freedom to decide how to organise learning, taking account of local circumstances and the interests, aptitudes and backgrounds of their pupils.

Schools may decide when and how National Curriculum Programmes of Study are delivered, which aspects to cover in depth, and how long to spend on each subject. They are not required to teach the subjects discretely and there are no prescribed time allocations for particular subjects. Schools may adapt the Programmes of Study in order to provide all pupils with appropriately challenging work at each key stage; they may group pupils in whichever way best meets their needs and are free to use a range of teaching methods. Head teachers may also introduce other experiences and subjects once they are satisfied that they are meeting the statutory requirements of the National Curriculum.

Recent curriculum developments have been aimed at reducing the statutory core and allowing schools even more autonomy to organise their curriculum. With these changes I believe we have got the balance right between a national statutory curriculum entitlement and a school-level curriculum designed to .meet the specific needs of pupils.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many external consultants supply services to his Department under contract. [231689]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In keeping with good procurement practice most consultancy contracts placed by DCSF are based on a requirement for the delivery of outcomes or outputs, and not for a number of consultancy days or hours. We are, therefore, unable to answer the question in the way it has been asked. However, the total number of live consultancy contracts in DCSF at the end of August 2008 was 354.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many page hits from how many visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08. [231692]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department's website received the following traffic in 2007-08:

The number of page hits received is 48,826,311. This is the number of times any page on the Departmental website is viewed.

Unique visitors to the site as a whole are 9,995,761. This is the number of visits people have made to the Departmental website.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08 and what the forecast costs for maintaining websites within his responsibility are in 2008-09. [231693]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Maintenance costs for the corporate part of the departmental website totalled £248,865 in 2007-08.

The amount of funding centrally allocated and centrally managed for the maintenance of all websites in 2008-09 is £3,660,000.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that sum is accounted for by expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [231688]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 482W, to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

DCSF is unable to separately identify individual costs within those for general entertainment as such expenditure is claimed and recorded under a general heading of 'Personal Entertainment'.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* NUVOS and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229539]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows.

Pension scheme	*Number of staff*	*Proportion (Percentage)*
Classic	1,955	73
Premium and Classic Plus	608	22
NUVOS	90	3
Total	2,653	98

The Department does not hold details of individual numbers of staff in the Premium and Classic Plus schemes. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department has no agencies.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230964]

Ed Balls: I have undertaken no personal training courses at public expense since my appointment as Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families.

Employment Agencies

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which recruitment agencies *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have used in the last three years; and how much was paid to each of these recruitment agencies in each year. [230942]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department was established on 28 June 2007. The costs paid to recruitment agencies from July 2007 to date are as follows:

	£
July 2007-March 2008	116,964
April 2008-to date	120,419

The recruitment consultants employed for these purposes were all drawn from the Cabinet Office framework agreement.

The Department has no agencies.

Financial Services: Education

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken in response to OFSTED's evaluation of personal financial education in schools; and if he will make a statement. [232382]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are working hard to improve personal finance education in schools through the "My Money" programme. This is a £10 million programme of support which will give children and young people a planned and coherent programme of financial capability education in schools. It is being driven by a consortium led by PFEG (Personal Finance Education Group) and will draw on best practice in financial education to develop resources and provide tailored support to schools. It will increase the capacity of teachers to deliver stimulating learning opportunities for young people in personal finance so that they leave school with the skills to manage their money well.

We also recently announced our intention to make Personal, Social, Health and Economic education statutory, with an independent review looking into how to achieve this in an effective and practicable way. This underlines our commitment to ensuring that all children and young people have the confidence and competence to manage their money effectively.

Further Education: Student Wastage

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the drop out rates of colleges were in September *(a)* 2008, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2006. [228927]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The percentage of qualifications being aimed for in FE colleges that learners did not complete is given in the following table. Figures relate to 16 to 18-year-olds and adults for 2004/05 to 2006/07. We cannot provide rates for September because they are calculated for whole academic years only. Figures for 2007/08 are not yet published.

FE college qualifications not completed[1]

			Percentage
Age group	*2004/05*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*
16 to 18	15	13.5	12.4
19+	13	12.2	12.7
All	13.7	12.7	12.6

[1] Calculated using 100—Retention rate. Retention rates are for all FE colleges and exclude external institutions. *Source:* SFR: http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000784/index.html

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* independent and *(b)* home-school candidates of the Qualifications and Curriculum Authority's decision to change GCSE coursework arrangements from September 2009. [229587]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Controlled assessments will be introduced within GCSEs from next year to replace coursework. This will help to reassure the public that the work that students submit is their own, and maintain the integrity of the GCSE. Students who study from home by choice will attend centres, usually local schools or colleges, so that they can participate in these assessments. Those who study from home because they are sick or disabled will have special arrangements put in place which ensure they are not prevented from participating. We will keep these arrangements under review to ensure that all candidates have the best opportunity to have their learning accredited.

Grammar Schools: Admissions

Mr. Holloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the likely changes in grammar school admission numbers consequent upon the Building Schools for the Future programme in the Bexley local authority in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford and *(b)* Old Bexley and Sidcup constituencies in the next three years; [232307]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely changes in grammar school admission numbers consequent upon the Building Schools for the Future programme in the Southend-on-Sea local authority area in *(a)* Rochford and Southend East and *(b)* Southend West constituencies in the next three years. [232306]

Jim Knight: Each local authority assesses its pupil capacity just before entering the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme, and puts forward proposals in its Strategy for Change (SfC) submission. Bexley and Southend-on-Sea are not yet in the BSF programme, so no information about their plans is available.

Learning and Skills Council

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time equivalent staff will work for each new agency resulting from the dissolution of the Learning and Skills Council. [224569]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

Following the consultation on the White Paper "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver" DCSF and DIUS are developing the organisational designs for the proposed new Young People's Learning Agency and Skills Funding Agency. These will be subject to consultation with employee representatives. A blueprint for the YPLA and a Post 19 implementation strategy are being developed for publication this autumn which will provide further detail.

It is therefore too early to be able to provide staffing numbers for each agency at this stage. However, we are committed to retaining the valuable expertise of as many LSC people as possible and will continue to do all we can to support LSC staff, working with their representatives, to ensure they have as much certainty as possible about what their options will be, as the new organisational set up becomes clearer. The LSC has a good track record of delivering major restructuring programmes. For example, 'theme 7' of the LSC's Agenda for Change programme undertaken last year was designed to further streamline the organisation and give local offices a more strategic role, built around a stronger relationship with local authorities ,and other key stakeholders. Since 2003 staffing levels at the organisation have reduced from 7,000 to 3,451 (the average number of staff in full time equivalent numbers employed by the LSC for the year ending March 2008, including 269 agency and temporary staff and five inward secondees).

Pre-school Education: Qualifications

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of people who qualified in *(a)* a Cache level two, *(b)* a BTEC certificate, CACHE and City and Guilds and *(c)* an NVQ level two in childcare in each year since 1997. [229701]

Mr. Simon *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Data on learners achieving childcare qualifications have been provided for 2002-03 onwards. Comparable information is not available prior to the formation of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

Table 1 shows the number of learners receiving a level 2 qualification in a child care related subject where the awarding body is CACHE.

Table 2 shows the number of learners receiving a level 2 qualification in a child care related subject where the awarding body is CACHE or City and Guilds, or where the qualification type is a BTEC Certificate.

Table 3 shows the number of learners receiving an NVQ level 2 qualification in a child care related subject.

Table 1: Learners receiving a level 2 qualification in a child care related subject, where the awarding body is CACHE

Qualification type	*Awarding body*	*Qualification*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
NVQ	CACHE	NVQ in Childcare and Education (Work in Support of Others)	—	—	—	—	—
		NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	620	3,350
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	1,640	2,180	3,340	3,400	930
		NVQ in Playwork	40	120	80	120	110
Other	CACHE	Certificate in Child Care and Education	4,000	4,450	5,170	5,390	5,890
		Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	40	350
		Certificate in Early Years Practice	—	30	230	260	60
		Certificate in Early Years Practice (Level 2)	20	30	40	—	—
		Certificate in Playwork	480	760	520	740	490
		Certificate in Pre-School Practice	1,360	1,750	1,910	1,640	1,800
		Certificate in Supporting Playwork Practice	—	—	30	—	10
		Developing Childminding Practice (Family Day Care) Stage 1	230	10	—	—	—
		Early Years Practice	—	90	—	—	—
		Introduction to Playwork	40	—	—	—	—
		Introduction to Pre-School Practice	540	10	—	—	—
		Practical Parenting Award	40	—	—	—	—
Total CACHE level 2 qualifications			8,380	9,430	11,310	12,220	12,980

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. '—' represents a figure of less than five.
3. These figures include qualifications gained at FE colleges and through work based learning.
Source:
FE and WBL ILR data

Table 2: Learners receiving a level 2 qualification in a child care related subject where the awarding body is CAHE or City and Guilds, or where the qualification is a BTEC Certificate

Qualification type	*Awarding body*	*Qualification*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
NVQ	CACHE	NVQ in Childcare and Education (Work in Support of Others)	—	—	—	—	—
		NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	[illegible]	—	620	3,350
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	1,640	2,180	3,340	3,400	930
		NVQ in Playwork	40	120	80	120	110
Other	CACHE	Certificate in Child Care and Education	4,000	4,450	5,170	5,390	5,890
		Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	40	350
		Certificate in Early Years Practice	—	30	230	[illegible]	60
		Certificate in Early Years Practice (Level 2)	20	30	40	—	—
		Certificate in Playwork	400	700	520	740	490
		Certificate in Pre-School Practice	1,360	1,750	1,910	1,640	1,800
		Certificate in Supporting Playwork Practice	—	—	30	—	10
		Developing Childminding Practice (Family Day Care) Stage 1	230	10	—	—	—
		Early Years Practice	—	90	—	—	—
		Introduction to Playwork	40	—	—	—	—
		Introduction to Pre-School Practice	540	10	—	—	—
		Practical Parenting Award	40	—	—	—	—
Total CACHE level 2 qualifications			8,380	9,430	11,310	12,220	12,980
NVQ	City and Guilds	NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	400	3,610
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	2,380	2,710	5,290	5,200	1,690
		NVQ in Playwork	70	120	150	160	180
Other	City and Guilds	Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	40	310
		Certificate in Contributing, to the Early Years Setting	—	—	20	—	—
		Progression Award in Early Years Care and Education	—	50	100	130	—
		Progression Award in Playwork	—	10	—	—	—
Total City and Guilds level 2 qualifications			2,460	2,880	5,550	5,930	5,790
Other	EDEXCEL	BTEC Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	—	70
		BTEC Certificate in Early Years Care and Education	—	—	40	190	50
		BTEC First Diploma in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	—	990
		BTEC First Diploma in Early Years	—	—	780	1,090	40
GNVQ precursor	EDEXCEL	BTEC First Certificate in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	—	70
Total BTEC Level 2 qualifications			—	—	820	1,290	1,220

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. '—' represents a figure of less than five.
3. These figures include qualifications gained at FE colleges and through work based learning.

Source:
FE and WBL ILR data

Table 3: Learners receiving an NVQ level 2 qualification in a child care related subject

Qualification type	*Awarding body*	*Qualification*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
NVQ	CACHE	NVQ in Childcare and Education (Work in Support of Others)	—	—	—	—	—

Table 3: Learners receiving an NVQ level 2 qualification in a child care related subject

Qualification type	*Awarding body*	*Qualification*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
		NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	620	3,350
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	1,640	2,180	3,340	3,400	930
		NVQ in Playwork	40	120	80	120	110
	CG	NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	400	3,610
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	2,380	2,710	5,290	5,200	1,690
		NVQ in Playwork	70	120	150	160	180
	EDEXCEL	NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	260	1,140
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	840	860	1,340	1,200	330
		NVQ in Playwork	50	60	30	30	30
	EDI	NVQ in Children's Care, Learning and Development	—	—	—	20	240
		NVQ in Early Years Care and Education	—	—	60	70	40
Total NVQ level 2 qualifications			5,030	6,050	10,270	11,490	11,640

Notes:
1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. '—' represents a figure of less than 10.
3. These figures include qualifications gained at FE colleges and through work based learning.
Source:
FE and WBL ILR data

Primary Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many primary school teachers have a subject-specific specialism in each subject; [232411]

(2) how many primary schools do not have a teacher with a mathematics specialism; [232412]

(3) how many primary schools have an executive headteacher. [232413]

Jim Knight: The information requested in his question (232413) is not held centrally, however Advanced Skills Teachers, Leading Teachers, and other primary school teachers may be able to provide primary schools with specialist mathematics support. We do not hold numbers for how many are doing this centrally. The recent "Independent Review of Mathematics Teaching in Early Years Settings and Primary Schools" by Sir Peter Williams estimated that approximately 3,000 teachers with a mathematics specialism are currently working in primary schools. By 2019 we will have implemented Sir Peter's main recommendation in accordance with his timetable, so that all primary schools will have access to a mathematics specialist teacher with their numbers increasing to around 13,000.

Primary Education: Pupil Exclusions

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary school pupils of each age have been given a fixed-period exclusion, broken down by reason for exclusion, in the last 12 months. [232417]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by age and reason for exclusion[2], England, 2006-07

	Pupils									
	Aged 2 and under	*Aged 3*	*Aged 4*	*Aged 5*	*Aged 6*	*Aged 7*	*Aged 8*	*Aged 9*	*Aged 10*	*Aged 11*
Physical assault against a pupil	10	120	300	580	830	1,180	1,900	2,630	2,270	1,330
Physical assault against an adult	[4]—	140	420	890	1,070	1,120	1,100	1,020	650	280
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	0	10	30	90	140	280	430	690	530	320
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	[4]—	30	70	210	340	590	960	1,440	1,200	730
Bullying	0	0	[4]—	10	30	40	80	150	180	70
Racist abuse	0	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	20	40	70	80	80	50
Sexual misconduct	0	[4]—	[4]—	20	20	20	50	50	70	30

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of fixed period exclusions by age and reason for exclusion[2], England, 2006-07

	Pupils									
	Aged 2 and under	*Aged 3*	*Aged 4*	*Aged 5*	*Aged 6*	*Aged 7*	*Aged 8*	*Aged 9*	*Aged 10*	*Aged 11*
Drug and alcohol related	0	0	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	10	20	20	10
Damage	0	10	10	40	80	100	160	250	190	110
Theft	0	0	[4]—	[4]—	10	40	50	90	100	60
Persistent disruptive behaviour	0	50	260	670	1,160	1,750	2,490	3,390	2,720	1,460
Other	[4]—	20	50	100	190	350	560	840	690	370
Total	20	380	1,140	2,610	3,890	5,500	7,860	10,640	8,680	4,820

	Pupils								
	Aged 12	*Aged 13*	*Aged 14*	*Aged 15*	*Aged 16*	*Aged 17*	*Aged 18*	*Aged 19 and over*	*Total[3]*
Physical assault against a pupil	50	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	11,210
Physical assault against an adult	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	6,710
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against a pupil	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2,520
Verbal abuse/ threatening behaviour against an adult	20	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	5,590
Bullying	10	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	560
Racist abuse	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	350
Sexual misconduct	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	260
Drug and alcohol related	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	60
Damage	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	950
Theft	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	340
Persistent disruptive behaviour	70	0	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	14,030
Other	10	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	3,180
Total	180	[4]—	[4]—	0	0	0	0	0	45,740

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Age as at 31 August 2006.

[3] Includes 10 exclusions for which missing or invalid date of birth was recorded. These have been included in the total only.

[4] Less than 5.

Note:

Totals may not appear to equal the sum of component parts because numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census.

Review of Sex and Relationship Education

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) who the head of the Review of Sex and Relationship Education is; what relevant specialist qualifications he or she holds; where the post was advertised; how many persons applied for the post; how many were short-listed for interview; and if he will make a statement; [232004]

(2) who the members of the body conducting the Review of Sex and Relationship Education are; what relevant specialist qualifications each holds; when each was appointed and by whom; where each vacancy was advertised; how many persons applied for each post; how many were short-listed for interview; where the Review of Sex and Relationship Education is located; how much he expects to be spent by it during the next 12 months on *(a)* office accommodation, *(b)* staff costs, *(c)* travel and subsistence and *(d)* staff bonuses; and if he will make a statement. [232005]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Sex and Relationships Education (SRE) review has been completed. The SRE review steering group's report and the Government response to it were both published on 23 October. A copy of the group's report and the response are available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13030

Members of the SRE review steering group—including the two co-chairs—were appointed by Ministers. Members fell into one or more of the following categories:

Members with practical experience of planning and delivering SRE in schools: including a head teacher, PSHE teacher, school nurse, school governor and, at a local authority level, a director of Children's Services and PSHE adviser;

Members with expert knowledge of young people's sexual health;

Young People; and

Representatives from Faith Groups and experts on wider diversity issues.

A full list of steering group members follows. Apart from travel expenses, none of the steering group members were paid. DCSF officials provided the secretariat for the review and their salaries and associated costs were met from within existing departmental running costs.

The Sex Education Forum was paid around £10,000 to undertake further consultation with young people, including the design and implementation of two on-line surveys and for analysing the results of those surveys. Further information on these surveys is included in the group's report.

Steering group membership

Jackie Fisher (co-chair)—Principal and Chief Executive, Newcastle College

Joshua McTaggart (co-chair)—UKYP Member for Weston Super Mare

John Freeman—Director of Children's Services, Sandwell and Dudley

Hazel Pulley—Head teacher, Caldecote Primary School, Leicester

Ama Owuzuru—Vice-President, National Union of Students (Further Education)

Hilda Hodson—Deputy Head teacher, Standish High School, Wigan

Charlie Ware—School Governor, Camden

Desmond Flood—PSHE Co-ordinator, Bartley Green School, Birmingham

Annie Hargreaves—LA adviser on PSHE & Healthy Schools, Hounslow

Anna Martinez—Head of Sex Education Forum

Chris McDermott—Specialist Practitioner School Nursing, Central Surrey Health

Professor Roger Ingham—University of Southampton

Gill Frances—Chair, Teenage Pregnancy Independent Advisory Group

Simon Blake—Chief Executive, Brook

Jan Campbell—PSHE Subject Association

Margaret Jones—HMI (PSHE Subject Adviser), Ofsted

Gareth Davies—Terrence Higgins Trust

Oona Stannard—Chief Executive, Catholic Education Service

Liz Carter—Church of England National Society

Sandy Youngson—Methodist Church

Shaila Sheikh—Education Equalities Adviser, East Sussex LA

David Kesterton—Manager of fpa's 'Speakeasy' programme

Robert Sassoon—UKYP Member, Reading

Katrina Mather—UKYP Member, East Sussex

Sarah Smart—PSHE Subject Association

Schools: Disabled

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools in England have produced an accessibility plan in compliance with section 280 of the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. [231387]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All schools should have in place an accessibility plan in compliance with section 28D of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. Data on schools that have produced accessibility plans are not collected centrally by the Department.

However, schools are expected to complete a self-evaluation form under Ofsted's inspection arrangements, confirming the extent to which they have met the requirements of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 and other equalities legislation.

The Secretary of State has the power, under section 28M of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995, to direct schools to comply with the legislation, if he deems the school has failed to so.

Schools: Transport

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will bring forward proposals to extend the periods during which schoolchildren can use their bus passes, in order to facilitate participation in after-school activities. [230426]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

There is currently no statutory entitlement for free bus travel for young people. At present 48 per cent. of young people walk or cycle to school and there is a risk that a blanket concession could encourage young people who currently walk or cycle to take the bus. However, local authorities can use their existing powers to offer local concessionary travel to young people.

From September 2008 the Education and Inspections Act 2006 extends entitlement to free school transport for pupils entitled to free school meals or whose parents are in receipt of maximum working tax credit. At secondary age, pupils attending one of their three nearest schools that is between two and six miles from their home, and those attending their nearest school preferred on grounds of religion or belief between two and 15 miles, will be entitled to free school transport.

Secondary Education: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Chief Executive of the Academies Enterprise Trust, *(b)* the headteacher at the Greensward School at Hockley, *(c)* the patron of the Academies Enterprise Trust and *(d)* the Chairman of Essex County Council on (i) secondary school reorganisation in Colchester and (ii) the establishment of one or more academies in Colchester. [232422]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a and b) Officials met with David Triggs, chief executive of the Academies Enterprise Trust and principal of Greensward School, on 9 October to discuss in principle how the trust and the academies in the area might co-operate more closely with local primary schools for the collective benefit of pupils in the area.

(c) The leader of Essex county council is the patron of the Academies Enterprise Trust and discussed possible options on secondary school reorganisation and academies in Colchester when he met the then Parliamentary Under Secretary, Lord Adonis, on 12 September. However, this was in his capacity as leader of Essex county council and not as patron of the Academies Enterprise Trust.

(d) The leader of Essex county council outlined possible options on secondary school reorganisation and academies in Colchester when he met the then Under Secretary, Lord Adonis, on 12 September.

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils had a statement of special educational needs in *(a)* England

and *(b)* Stoke-on-Trent, broken down by age group at the latest date for which figures are available. [231602]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is shown in the tables.

State funded primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs by age and gender[2,3]—position in January 2008—Stoke-on-Trent local authority and England

Stoke-on-Trent

Pupils with SEN without statements[5]

	Boys		*Girls*		*Total*	
Pupils aged:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
2 and under	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
3	110	9.2	52	4.3	162	6.8
4	308	22.2	159	11.9	467	17.1
5	415	31.4	189	15.6	604	23.9
6	466	36.7	233	18.7	699	27.8
7	471	36.1	286	22.0	757	29.1
8	433	33.7	238	18.0	671	25.7
9	431	32.0	245	19.5	676	26.0
10	487	32.9	277	20.2	764	26.8
11	378	31.2	259	20.9	637	26.0
12	381	28.8	251	19.8	632	24.4
13	353	26.6	204	16.3	557	21.6
14	387	29.3	284	20.7	671	24.9
15	402	27.9	272	20.3	674	24.3
16	3	2.3	4	3.0	7	2.7
17	4	4.1	5	3.4	9	3.7
18	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
19+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total[4]	5,030	28.8	2,960	17.4	7,990	23.2

Stoke-on-Trent

Pupils with statements

	Boys		*Girls*		*Total*	
Pupils aged:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
2 and under	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
3	3	0.3	•	•	5	0.2
4	6	0.4	4	0.3	10	0.4
5	13	1.0	5	0.4	18	0.7
6	12	0.9	9	0.7	21	0.8
7	16	1.2	9	0.7	25	1.0
8	34	2.6	10	0.8	44	1.7
9	38	2.8	14	1.1	52	2.0
10	63	4.3	17	1.2	80	2.8
11	53	4.4	14	1.1	67	2.7
12	58	4.4	19	1.5	77	3.0
13	58	4.4	17	1.4	75	2.9
14	63	4.8	16	1.2	79	2.9
15	81	5.6	24	1.8	105	3.8
16	•	•	•	•	3	1.1
17	•	•	0	0.0	•	•
18	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
19+	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
Total[4]	500	2.9	160	0.9	660	1.9

• = Less than 3.

[1] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.

[2] Age as at 31 August 2007.

[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[4] National and total across all ages figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.

[5] Includes pupils at School Action and School Action Plus.

[6] Number of SEN pupils expressed as a percentage of all pupils of the same age and gender.

Source:
School Census

State funded primary and secondary schools[1]: Number of pupils with special educational needs by age and gender[2,3]—position in January 2008—Stoke-on-Trent local authority and England

England[4]

Pupils with SEN without statements[5]

	Boys		Girls		Total	
Pupils aged:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
2 and under	450	2.4	200	1.1	650	1.8
3	8,360	6.7	3,930	3.2	12,290	5.0
4	30,840	11.1	14,550	5.5	45,390	8.3
5	57,520	21.2	28,530	11.0	86,050	16.2
6	71,310	26.1	38,190	14.6	109,500	20.5
7	77,090	27.8	41,780	15.7	118,870	21.9
8	80,000	28.1	44,050	16.2	124,050	22.2
9	79,930	27.8	45,510	16.5	125,440	22.3
10	79,480	27.0	46,630	16.4	126,110	21.8
11	73,150	25.7	45,360	16.6	118,510	21.2
12	71,330	24.8	44,000	15.8	115,330	20.4
13	68,720	23.5	42,630	15.0	111,350	19.3
14	64,850	22.2	41,020	14.4	105,880	18.4
15	63,250	21.3	42,070	14.5	105,310	17.9
16	7,050	7.2	5,340	5.0	12,390	6.1
17	3,460	4.7	2,760	3.2	6,220	3.9
18	460	5.8	470	6.3	930	6.0
19+	30	6.3	50	6.8	80	6.6
Total[4]	837,280	22.4	487,050	13.4	1,324,330	18.0

England[4]

Pupils with statements

	Boys		Girls		Total	
Pupils aged:	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*	*Number of pupils*	*Percentage of school population[6]*
2 and under	20	0.1	20	0.1	40	0.1
3	410	0.3	240	0.2	650	0.3
4	2,640	0.9	1,250	0.5	3,890	0.7
5	3,910	1.4	1,570	0.6	5,490	1.0
6	4,900	1.8	1,960	0.7	6,860	1.3
7	5,960	2.1	2,320	0.9	8,280	1.5
8	7,320	2.6	2,640	1.0	9,960	1.8
9	8,160	2.8	2,990	1.1	11,150	2.0
10	9,590	3.3	3,360	1.2	12,950	2.2
11	8,710	3.1	3,010	1.1	11,710	2.1
12	9,160	3.2	3,220	1.2	12,380	2.2
13	9,520	3.3	3,340	1.2	12,860	2.2
14	9,740	3.3	3,580	1.3	13,330	2.3
15	9,510	3.2	3,630	1.3	13,140	2.2
16	1,600	1.6	760	0.7	2,350	1.2
17	710	1.0	350	0.4	1,070	0.7
18	180	2.2	90	1.2	260	1.7
19+	10	2.3	10	1.6	20	1.9
Total[4]	92,050	2.5	34,350	0.9	126,390	1.7

[1] Includes City Technology Colleges and Academies.
[2] Age as at 31 August 2007.
[3] Excludes dually registered pupils.
[4] National and total across all ages figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
[5] Includes pupils at School Action and School Action Plus.
[6] Number of SEN pupils expressed as a percentage of all pupils of the same age and gender.
Source:
School Census

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the provision of choice of school for parents whose children require complex educational and specialist health provision. [232458]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The present statutory framework provides for children with statements of special educational needs to be taught in mainstream schools where this is what their parents want and is compatible with the efficient education of other children. It also provides for parents to seek a special school place and to have this preference considered.

The Education Act 1996 places a general duty on local authorities to secure that there are sufficient schools for providing primary and secondary school education and requires them in particular to have regard to the need to secure that special educational provision is made for pupils with special educational needs. The Education and Inspections Act 2006 requires local authorities to consider and respond to parental representations when carrying out their planning duty.

Specialised Diplomas

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have enrolled for the new diploma courses in 2008, broken down by *(a)* subject and *(b)* level. [231868]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest information we have from local consortia indicates that around 12,000 young people are currently working towards a diploma qualification, based upon returns from all but four of the local authorities involved. By line and level, this breaks down as:

Line	*Level 1*	*Level 2*	*Level 3*	*Total*
Construction and the Built Environment	447	942	157	1,546
Creative and Media	536	2,430	637	3,603
Engineering	585	1,780	403	2,768
Information Technology	353	1,146	331	1,830
Society, Heath, and Development	274	1,124	394	1,792

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the effect on student travel *(a)* time and *(b)* costs of the provision of a single 14-19 diploma jointly by different institutions. [232331]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Travel arrangements for diploma delivery will vary considerably depending upon the local context, so we do not collect this information at a national level. Rather, local authorities, 14-19 partnerships and consortia take student travel time and cost of travel into account in planning for diploma delivery.

In each of the 40 most rural areas, we have funded the post of Transport and Access Co-ordinator (at £75,000 per local authority for 18 months from September 2008) to allow these local authorities to investigate and arrange more effective and efficient transport for their young people accessing diplomas. We have also made funding available through the diploma formula grant to reflect the additional costs of travel between institutions in more sparsely populated local authorities. Details of how this funding was calculated can be found in the diploma grant guidance issued to local authorities and 14-19 partnerships in December 2007. This document can be accessed through the 14-19 education and skills website at

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/14-19/

within the 14-19 funding section under diploma funding.

Teachers: Sick Leave

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much time off due to illness was taken by teachers in *(a)* the Ribble Valley, *(b)* Lancashire and *(c)* England in each of the last five years. [231813]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* Information is not available at constituency level for teacher sickness absence. Figures on teacher sickness absence by local authority area are shown in the following statistical publications:

School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised)—(Calendar year figures for 2007 are shown in table 24)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/index.shtml

School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2007 (Revised)—(Calendar year figures for 2006 are shown in table 22).

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

School Workforce in England (including pupil: teacher ratios and pupil: adult ratios), January 2006 (Revised) (Calendar year figures for 2005 are shown in table 22).

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000681/index.shtml

Figures for Teacher Sickness Absence by Local Authority for calendar year 2004 were not published on the website. The information requested has been placed in the Library.

School workforce in England, 2004 edition (including teachers' pay for England and Wales)—(Calendar year figures for 2003 are shown in table A6).

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000554/index.shtml

Teacher sickness absence: Full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence in calendar year 2004 by local education authority[1]. England

	Full-time (or full-time plus part-time if figures combined, see footnotes)			*Part-time*		
	Number taking absence	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*	*Number taking absence*	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*
Darlington	410	4,030	2,000	40	290	210
Hartlepool	510	6,000	3,250	30	440	300
Middlesbrough	660	7,670	3,880	110	[illegible]	330
Redcar and Cleveland	720	6,390	3,080	140	1,060	590
Stockton on Tees	1,020	9,470	4,170	140	1,780	1,130
Durham	2,720	27,350	16,160	290	2,470	1,550
Northumberland	1,210	10,510	5,470	180	1,910	1,220
Gateshead	970	8,600	3,700	120	1,330	620
Newcastle upon Tyne	1,130	10,250	4,140	130	1,330	380
North Tyneside	830	8,440	4,260	100	1,290	790
South Tyneside	650	8,070	4,130	40	720	500

Teacher sickness absence: Full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence in calendar year 2004 by local education authority[1] England

	Full-time (or full-time plus part-time if figures combined, see footnotes)			Part-time		
	Number taking absence	Total number of days taken	Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days	Number taking absence	Total number of days taken	Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days
Sunderland	1,550	17,570	9,010	120	1,120	560
North east	12,370	124,540	63,250	1,420	14,470	8,170
Blackburn with Darwen	740	9,070	4,930	100	1,590	1,140
Blackpool	770	7,980	3,640	110	890	390
Halton	610	6,500	3,030	70	760	390
Warrington	1,060	12,680	7,500	110	870	450
Cheshire	3,570	34,220	15,210	570	4,670	2,320
Cumbria	1,570	14,670	6,410	290	2,880	1,350
Bolton	1,560	15,050	5,210	200	1,820	590
Bury	1,000	10,670	4,990	100	420	120
Manchester	2,000	22,490	13,440	290	2,390	1,270
Oldham	1,250	13,190	5,500	130	—	—
Rochdale	1,260	12,250	5,360	130	1,610	960
Salford	930	20,050	15,160	180	7,250	6,350
Stockport	1,320	13,710	5,590	280	2,920	1,190
Tameside	1,280	13,060	5,810	140	1,680	710
Trafford	840	9,820	5,130	120	2,150	1,550
Wigan	1,850	18,320	9,540	190	1,790	1,020
Lancashire	5,720	69,440	40,220	970	12,130	7,980
Knowsley	1,010	11,710	5,890	70	530	90
Liverpool	2,730	33,810	18,390	250	3,520	2,160
St. Helens	990	10,790	5,230	90	1,270	680
Sefton	1,640	13,620	4,750	190	1,770	690
Wirral	1,510	16,920	10,110	270	1,530	720
North West	35,190	389,990	201,020	4,840	54,450	32,130
East Riding of Yorkshire	1,620	17,600	10,770	—	—	—
City of Kingston Upon Hull	1,580	18,520	5,100	190	930	370
North East Lincolnshire	940	9,780	3,860	150	2,480	1,700
North Lincolnshire	710	6,290	2,880	100	750	440
York	860	8,700	4,760	180	1,550	440
North Yorkshire	2,920	30,470	14,170	2,900	8,840	3,480
Barnsley	1,110	14,480	8,610	80	890	540
Doncaster	1,760	19,620	9,800	230	2,520	1,350
Rotherham	1,620	19,520	8,200	120	780	220
Sheffield	2,600	29,050	15,350	630	8,330	5,600
Bradford	2,600	28,880	13,510	420	3,800	1,980
Calderdale	1,100	11,030	5,250	210	2,530	1,580
Kirklees	2,060	25,260	14,470	360	3,440	1,620
Leeds	3,780	42,760	19,620	560	3,860	1,940
Wakefield	1,670	17,660	9,490	250	3,020	1,730
Yorkshire and the Humber	26,910	299,620	145,830	6,390	43,710	22,970
Derby	1,260	11,820	4,750	30	330	180
Leicester	1,480	14,970	4,800	140	1,210	440
Nottingham	1,490	15,020	6,770	240	2,720	1,490
Rutland	130	1,420	530	40	310	40
Derbyshire	3,240	42,120	21,420	810	9,740	5,100
Leicestershire	2,930	23,140	8,770	990	14,440	10,180
Lincolnshire	3,200	36,730	8,910	550	7,910	1,950
Northamptonshire	2,540	22,300	10,050	520	7,090	4,880
Nottinghamshire	3,150	46,760	18,600	600	9,930	4,100
East Midlands	19,440	214,270	84,600	3,910	53,670	28,360
Herefordshire	750	6,140	2,310	200	2,090	1,270
Stoke on Trent	1,300	14,080	7,000	—	—	—
Telford and Wrekin	890	9,090	4,070	150	660	140
Shropshire	1,190	8,510	2,470	290	2,970	1,820
Staffordshire	4,060	44,890	21,660	810	6,060	2,130
Warwickshire	2,850	27,410	10,750	580	5,700	2,370

Teacher sickness absence: Full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence in calendar year 2004 by local education authority[1], England

	Full-time (or full-time plus part-time if figures combined, see footnotes)			Part-time		
	Number taking absence	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*	*Number taking absence*	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*
Birmingham	6,160	65,530	29,080	900	6,510	2,150
Coventry	1,650	14,750	4,780	270	2,350	960
Dudley	1,540	16,130	7,750	70	500	210
Sandwell	1,740	24,810	14,590	190	2,600	1,400
Solihull	1,180	10,710	4,760	290	2,410	1,340
Walsall	1,950	14,130	2,970	190	1,320	700
Wolverhampton	1,900	15,760	6,700	210	1,410	590
Worcestershire	2,870	27,170	13,580	570	2,850	1,320
West Midlands	29,700	299,110	132,540	4,720	37,410	16,400
Luton	790	7,750	3,290	150	1,100	310
Peterborough	1,240	9,700	3,750	200	1,270	400
Southend on Sea	1,100	11,220	4,900	170	1,530	730
Thurrock	840	8,690	4,220	80	470	60
Bedfordshire	2,260	18,130	6,960	400	3,470	1,800
Cambridgeshire	2,430	21,850	5,070	590	5,050	1,520
Essex	7,080	61,120	22,190	1,360	7,650	3,790
Hertfordshire	4,150	41,400	24,910	1,050	11,123	7,620
Norfolk	1,910	22,200	6,500	520	5,900	1,750
Suffolk	3,220	25,030	6,200	890	8,070	3,000
East of England	25,100	227,160	88,060	5,350	45,700	21,070
Camden	970	7,820	2,680	180	1,060	440
City of London	10	20	—	—	100	100
Hackney	1,140	11,170	4,750	140	1,080	470
Hammersmith and Fulham	790	5,140	1,250	60	290	60
Haringey	1,400	12,240	4,370	170	1,550	830
Islington	1,050	8,100	2,360	170	1,110	320
Kensington and Chelsea	440	3,260	1,170	60	420	180
Lambeth	1,120	8,260	2,470	160	820	210
Lewisham	950	7,570	2,740	150	1,260	570
Newham	2,050	17,410	7,110	150	1,400	690
Southwark	1,500	11,870	3,800	150	700	290
Tower Hamlets	1,660	14,430	4,570	220	1,380	350
Wandsworth	1,080	7,930	3,060	220	1,450	720
City of Westminster	660	4,700	930	60	500	230
Barking and Dagenham	1,090	8,280	2,390	120	1,540	850
Barnet	1,780	10,740	4,010	510	3,690	60
Bexley	1,370	10,960	3,610	160	900	410
Brent	1,740	12,160	3,620	160	780	100
Bromley	1,760	14,500	5,070	290	1,880	640
Croydon	1,910	16,730	6,860	650	2,400	1,260
Ealing	1,500	10,110	2,840	260	2,270	1,100
Enfield	1,530	12,190	5,960	240	2,080	1,120
Greenwich	1,590	12,630	4,650	260	1,740	810
Harrow	1,070	8,040	2,640	220	1,310	580
Havering	1,280	9,720	3,760	150	570	130
Hillingdon	1,650	12,180	2,400	170	910	120
Hounslow	1,380	10,510	3,780	190	1,180	270
Kingston upon Thames	560	4,210	1,290	270	1,690	750
Merton	710	6,230	2,650	110	580	150
Redbridge	1,790	14,460	5,360	250	1,730	700
Richmond upon Thames	620	5,200	2,400	150	1,460	820
Sutton	1,110	8,530	3,270	200	1,030	200
Waltham Forest	1,130	9,960	5,870	160	990	360
London	46,590	317,300	113,710	6,330	41,920	15,850
Bracknell Forest	480	2,280	550	90	600	240
Brighton and Hove	1,190	11,600	5,090	350	2,130	880
Isle of Wight	620	6,810	3,460	130	1,250	560

Teacher sickness absence: Full-time and part-time teacher sickness absence in calendar year 2004 by local education authority[1], England

	Full-time (or full-time plus part-time if figures combined, see footnotes)			Part-time		
	Number taking absence	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*	*Number taking absence*	*Total number of days taken*	*Days taken as part of absences of more than 20 days*
Medway	1,980	12,570	4,840	720	2,500	1,200
Milton Keynes	1,110	5,840	2,280	250	450	—
Portsmouth	970	10,130	4,910	130	1,700	1,050
Reading	560	5,700	2,610	90	990	620
Slough	810	6,400	2,060	110	950	490
Southampton	1,190	10,270	4,030	190	1,520	690
West Berkshire	810	4,950	1,380	130	830	240
Windsor and Maidenhead	490	5,140	2,250	150	2,870	1,990
Wokingham	650	4,930	900	100	1,400	440
Buckinghamshire	1,850	16,560	9,250	440	4,440	2,000
East Sussex	2,390	20,090	8,030	570	3,400	1,840
Hampshire	4,120	36,890	10,540	890	6,230	2,000
Kent	7,200	62,770	24,360	1,080	7,210	2,730
Oxfordshire	1,900	17,320	10,900	390	3,190	1,970
Surrey	3,700	31,050	7,000	940	7,830	1,970
West Sussex	3,760	32,090	11,850	930	8,990	4,560
South East	35,380	303,420	116,330	7,730	58,430	26,560
Bath and North East Somerset	780	5,790	2,720	180	1,130	610
Bournemouth	740	8,360	3,720	140	1,000	420
City of Bristol	1,880	18,270	6,780	340	3,380	1,910
North Somerset	1,000	11,090	5,640	180	1,240	590
Plymouth	1,280	12,300	3,930	220	2,100	780
Poole	590	5,280	1,580	100	790	280
South Gloucestershire	1,400	13,020	5,630	350	3,050	1,430
Swindon	1,010	8,220	3,360	160	1,920	1,210
Torbay	720	7,920	4,210	130	1,800	1,070
Cornwall	2,350	27,670	16,520	130	520	320
Isles of Scilly	—	60	60	—	—	—
Devon	2,730	27,890	14,250	680	8,980	5,560
Dorset	1,910	18,670	6,030	430	3,490	960
Gloucestershire	1,560	16,570	8,950	500	3,890	1,980
Somerset	3,170			810		
Wiltshire	1,640	15,020	3,100	370	2,380	670
South West	22,740	196,140	80,790	4,730	35,590	17,000
England[2]	247,400	2,397,900	1,043,300	45,400	398,200	195,500

[1] Sickness absence on working days, whether paid absence or not, of teachers with permanent contracts or contracts of over one month. The number of teachers taking sick leave includes an individual teacher only once however many periods of sickness absence they have had. The number of days taken as sick leave includes all periods of sick leave.

[2] England totals include estimates for local authorities where information is not available and are rounded to the nearest 100.

Source:

DCSF annual 618G survey

Work Experience

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the impact of the current downturn in the economy on courses involving any form of work experience. [232275]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There has been no direct assessment of the impact on work experience placements of current events in the economy.

Information from the LSC from 2006-07, the last complete academic year for which we have data, shows that 480,000 work experience placements took place during Key Stage 4, supported by education business partnership organisations. We estimate that around 300,000 employers work with education each year. On that basis we are confident that young people will continue to have access to work experience but will keep this under review.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on proposals from the French Presidency for a co-decision procedure for the EU to adopt a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by the year 2020 from a 1990 baseline. [227864]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe that the EU's commitment to a 30 per cent. reduction in greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions as part of a comprehensive international agreement should be built firmly into the current EU Climate and Energy Package. We believe that the trigger for moving to the higher EU GHG target should be the EU's ratification of an international climate agreement for post-2012. Once the decision to ratify is taken, we favour amending the EU's implementing legislation by the comitology procedure rather than co-decision. This is in line with the proposal from the European Commission and the position taken by the European Parliament. However, ultimately, it is the commitment to the 30 per cent. reduction target that is of greatest importance. Whatever process is put in place to move to a higher target, it must be swift and transparent.

Coal

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many tonnes of coal reserves exist in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK. [227169]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Coal Authority estimates that the UK has 3,380 million tonnes of coal resources.

Of this, 270 million tonnes is economically recoverable coal in the 'reserves category' (i.e. proved and probably mineable coal) at current deep mines and sites subject to conditional deep mine licences. A further 75 million tonnes are at existing surface mines, those with planning approval granted and those currently in the planning process.

The Coal Authority estimates there to be 235 million tonnes of previously proven reserves remaining in closed deep mines still in licence. A further 2,030 million tonnes of potential deep mine prospects and 765 million tonnes at potential surface mine prospects, including those in pre-planning and resources within former conditional licences.

No detailed regional breakdown of these figures is readily available.

Energy: Waste Management

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the quantity of wasted energy in the form of heat produced by energy from waste plants in England in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and what proportion this represents of the total energy produced from the sites. [226768]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There were 18 permitted municipal energy from waste plants in England in 2006. Four of these were operating as combined heat and power (CHP) plants and therefore their heat energy is not wasted. For the remaining 14, wasted heat energy is assessed at approximately 1.1 TWh for the year 2006. This calculation allows for some plants that are not yet working at full capacity and takes into account their own energy requirements for incineration. This figure is based on an estimate of 12.5 per cent. for the average thermal inefficiency of electricity-only energy from waste systems relative to CHP.

The Government have consulted on changes to regulations to make it easier for operators of CHP energy from waste plants to claim ROCs (renewable obligation certificates) under the renewables obligation.

As well as the 18 municipal plants discussed, there were a further 85 permitted waste incineration facilities in England in 2006. Due to differences in the calorific value of the wastes they accept, we have no estimate of the waste heat energy from those plants.

Microgeneration

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to ensure that community scale renewable electricity technologies such as solar photo voltaics and small wind can contribute fully to help to reach the 2020 renewable energy target. [226876]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of developing the renewable energy strategy which will be published in spring 2009 we are considering how to encourage onsite technologies including community scale renewable technologies such as solar photovoltaics and small wind. The Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change recently announced the Government's view that a feed-in tariff for small-scale generation can play an important role alongside the renewables obligation for large-scale projects. We plan to bring an amendment to the Energy Bill to make this happen.

Currently, electricity generated from solar PV is also eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO), which is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation. Generators currently receive one renewable obligation certificate (ROC) for every 1MWh of renewable electricity. Under reforms to the RO, we are proposing that solar PV receive two ROCs per MWh.

The low carbon buildings programme (LCBP) is the Government's £86 million demonstration grant programme. Under LCBP Phase 2, with a £50 million budget, we support community scale projects for the public sector and not for profit organisations.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the national electricity requirement the Government envisage being met by nuclear generation by 2020. [227914]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government published their latest energy and emissions projections in May 2007. The document is available at:

http://berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf

These projections assume that the share of nuclear electricity generation in 2020 would be around 6 per cent., based on the continued operation of three existing plants. An updated set of projections is due to be published shortly.

Power Stations: Standards

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the case for applying emission performance standards to the approval of new power plants. [226016]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 October 2008]*: In the context of the Energy Bill, the Department has considered the concept of an emission performance standard for new power stations. We do not support the introduction of such a standard because it would not yield any additional carbon savings as emissions from the power sector are already capped under the EU emissions trading scheme. Furthermore, it presents a number of risks:

potentially undermining the EU ETS;

to the UK's security of energy supplies—in particular it would be likely to lead to increased dependence on gas and therefore in turn, higher electricity prices for consumers; and

to the deployment of carbon capture and storage technologies, should such a standard rule out new coal-fired power stations. This is because the lower efficiency of existing coal-fired power stations makes retrofitting of carbon capture and storage equipment a less attractive option, because that in itself will reduce the efficiency of a power station.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which Ministers in his Department are responsible for policy on *(a)* nuclear safety and *(b)* nuclear waste storage and disposal. [226689]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 13 October 2008]*: I am.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Management

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the arrangements are for the utilisation and disposal of the former Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories site; and what consultation is planned as part of that process. [225856]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The former Berkeley Nuclear Laboratories site was split at the end of 2006, between the Berkeley Nuclear Licensed site and the Berkeley Centre, which lies outside of the nuclear licensed site. The licensed site is at an advanced stage of decommissioning and, as a result, all activities are focused on clean-up and waste management. There are no commercial activities carried out on the licensed site. Details are set out in the site Lifetime Plan, reflected in the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority's strategy and annual plans. The Berkeley Centre is managed as an asset by the NDA, which is considering options for its use or disposal in consultation with stakeholders.

JUSTICE

Community Orders: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were issued in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [231304]

Maria Eagle: Data on community sentences (including the community order and other community sentences) are available by police force area and the following table shows the number of community sentences issued in the Hampshire police force area 2002-06. Data for 2007 will be available later in the year. Community sentence data are not made available for smaller areas because detailed checks on sentencing data are not carried out at court level.

Number of persons sentenced to community sentences in Hampshire police force area, 2002-06

	Number
2002	7,026
2003	7,119
2004	7,980
2005	7,702
2006	6,851

Note:
These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.
Source:
OMS Analytical Services
24 October 2008
Ref: PQ(OMSAS)291-08

Coroners

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average duration of an inquest at a Coroner's Court in England is; and in which Coroners' Courts jurisdictions inquests lasted more than a year in the last 10 years. [231229]

Bridget Prentice: The latest available statistical information on the timeliness of inquests relates to the calendar year 2007. The estimated average time taken to complete inquests in 2007 by coroners in England was 25 weeks.

Statistics on inquests lasting more than one year have been collected only since 2004. However, I can confirm that 9 per cent. of inquests concluded by coroners in England in 2007 took over a year. I can also confirm that all coroner jurisdictions except two (the Isles of Scilly and the Queen's Household, which both have only a very small number of inquests in a year) concluded at least one inquest in either 2006 or 2007 where the time taken was more than a year. These figures relate only to those inquests where the death occurred in England and Wales. Timeliness statistics are not collected by the Department for inquests where the death occurred elsewhere.

There are a number of reasons why individual inquests can take considerably longer man the average time of 25 weeks. These include the need for coroners to await medical reports and the completion of investigations by other agencies such as the police, the Health and Safety Executive, and the Prisons and Probation Ombudsman.

Cost Effectiveness

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what efficiency savings will be required from *(a)* Prison Service workforce replanning, *(b)* probation productivity via trust programmes, *(c)* prisons legal advice and *(d)* other identifiable areas or programmes under his Department's Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 to 2011; [232633]

(2) what efficiency savings are expected to be found by prison productivity, broken down by specified programmes, under his Department's Financial Plan for the Comprehensive Spending Review for 2008 to 2011. [232634]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is on target to achieve cashable savings of £80 million in the current financial year. Budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed.

NOMS will achieve £80 million savings in 2008-09 through a range of activities, including the introduction of standardised operating arrangements in closed male. establishments; clustering operations in neighbouring prisons; reducing staffing in area offices; and reductions in administration and IT costs. A number of major change programmes are under way to ensure that NOMS can operate within available resources for the rest of the spending period but budgets for 2009-10 and 2010-11 have not yet been agreed and it is not yet possible to quantify the savings that will be generated by specific activities.

Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been disciplined or dismissed in *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* the Prison Service for breaches of data protection or inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in each of the last three years. [232146]

Mr. Wills: Centrally held records in the former DCA show that three members of staff have been dismissed for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years, all in 2006. Information on other disciplinary sanctions is not held centrally in the format requested.

Centrally held records in the public sector Prison Service show that members of staff have been disciplined and dismissed for inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data in the last three years. In some of these cases, the inappropriate use of data is actually included as part of a wide range of charges against the members of staff:

April 2005 to March 2006—nil.

April 2006 to March 2007—six members of staff were subject to formal disciplinary action and, of these, three were subsequently dismissed from service.

April 2007 to March 2008—one member of staff was subject to formal disciplinary action and was subsequently dismissed from service.

Centrally held records in NOMS and OCJR show there have been no recorded cases of discipline or dismissal for breaches of data protection and inappropriate use of personal or sensitive data.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231437]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has recorded nine significant personal data related incidents for 2007-08, published in its resource accounts and laid before the House on 21 July 2008.

There were five related equipment losses, comprising of four laptops and one electronic storage device.

I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on 25 June 2008, providing the final report on measures for data handling procedures in government.

Departmental Telephone Services

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what agencies or units for which his Department is responsible require the public to make telephone calls to them on numbers which charge more than the national call rate; and how much income each such agency has derived from such charges in each of the last three years. [225749]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice's Central Recruitment Unit uses 0870 numbers for calls relating to recruitment campaigns. The Unit handles approximately 80,000 calls per year and the total revenue generated from these numbers, since they were introduced in February 2004, is £25,503.69.

There is no central record held of the yearly breakdown. The maximum duration of a call is two minutes 59 seconds for which the caller pays a charge of 9p, in addition to the national rate. For shorter calls, the charge will be less. Calls to these numbers from mobile phones are charged at the rate determined by the phone carrier. The Ministry cannot control the charges made by mobile service providers.

From next month the unit is switching to a new system for handling recruitment campaigns and it is anticipated that use of the 0870 numbers will cease.

Driving Offences

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were prosecuted for driving cars while *(a)* banned from driving and *(b)* uninsured in each police authority area in the UK in each year since 1997. [231495]

Maria Eagle: Available information for England and Wales, held by the Ministry of Justice for the offences of 'driving while disqualified from holding or obtaining a licence' and 'using motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks', from 1997 to 2006 (latest available) are provided in the following tables. The data cover all motor vehicles as defined by the Road Traffic Act. Data for 2007 should be available at the end of November 2008.

Matters arising in Scotland and Northern Ireland are matters for the Scottish Government and the Northern Ireland Office respectively.

Table A: Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of driving while disqualified[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	1,516	1,715	1,955	1,709	1,613	1,858	2,159	1,830	1,380	1,171
Bedfordshire	528	544	548	475	563	635	757	666	605	594
Cambridgeshire	530	518	535	479	454	475	730	625	548	533
Cheshire	736	692	748	661	645	788	907	953	647	597
Cleveland	720	690	689	748	796	848	1,091	1,014	863	631
Cumbria	486	428	430	402	558	528	571	538	384	314
Derbyshire	858	754	829	776	837	968	1,059	945	771	680
Devon and Cornwall	860	896	940	948	954	1,036	1,224	1,033	867	627
Dorset	546	507	478	510	508	488	655	545	412	277
Durham	600	592	784	817	770	821	853	786	729	504
Essex	841	821	944	944	1,082	1,159	1,220	1,139	1,132	973
Gloucestershire	457	429	496	428	425	424	449	443	391	355
Greater Manchester	3,273	3,256	3,391	3,474	3,676	4,000	4,093	3,608	3,155	2,577
Hampshire	1,442	1,488	1,415	1,488	1,452	1,545	1,695	1,509	1,208	912
Hertfordshire	551	501	557	542	580	604	751	783	803	701
Humberside	748	818	895	888	783	888	1,195	1,127	993	771
Kent	785	895	953	1,049	1,157	1,414	1,610	1,611	1,294	1,124
Lancashire	1,552	1,670	1,681	1,553	1,460	1,827	2,222	1,665	1,541	1,285
Leicestershire	1,281	1,305	1,429	1,448	1,536	1,550	1,667	1,596	1,272	738
Lincolnshire	531	549	506	498	541	618	751	675	504	433
London, City of	133	119	86	82	75	141	145	129	125	87
Merseyside	1,636	1,423	1,437	1,409	1,533	1,609	2,129	2,260	1,979	1,306
Metropolitan Police	5,590	5,000	4,567	4,281	4,734	5,440	6,261	6,660	6,357	6,112
Norfolk	431	424	485	508	685	709	746	590	523	421
Northamptonshire	676	802	783	681	431	324	631	741	538	402
Northumbria	1,680	1,701	1,935	1,832	1,844	1,834	1,929	1,749	1,619	1,401
North Yorkshire	554	523	494	506	499	456	574	548	520	374
Nottinghamshire	1,511	1,451	1,572	1,429	1,535	1,533	2,075	1,875	1,457	1,134
South Yorkshire	1,656	1,562	1,688	1,647	1,734	1,841	2,048	1,812	1,412	1,356
Staffordshire[2]	1,054	1,004	1,086	1,030	1,015	1,209	1,331	1,195	1,141	856
Suffolk	365	327	413	422	393	513	623	631	452	427
Surrey	379	350	375	434	523	516	517	460	425	363
Sussex	827	766	927	990	987	922	920	819	725	722
Thames Valley	1,391	1,388	1,381	1,460	1,579	1,774	1,736	1,627	1,358	1,067
Warwickshire	461	418	416	302	391	435	490	549	440	302
West Mercia	816	820	865	882	858	945	978	983	902	739
West Midlands	3,869	3,784	3,524	3,464	3,771	4,130	4,702	4,723	4,022	3,191
West Yorkshire	3,080	2,905	3,126	3,225	3,129	3,241	3,571	3,176	2,551	1,943
Wiltshire	304	424	440	396	488	535	530	456	451	363
Dyfed-Powys	377	366	367	417	481	457	453	409	371	308
Gwent	650	780	849	971	1,064	941	1,210	1,115	1,013	910
North Wales	525	583	614	556	626	659	795	830	666	450
South Wales	2,152	2,259	2,397	2,339	2,613	2,949	3,319	3,004	2,353	1,672
England and Wales	48,958	48,247	50,030	49,080	51,378	55,587	63,372	59,512	50,899	41,713

[1] Offences of aiding, abetting, causing or permitting offences under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s103(1).

[2] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of offences

Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003[2]*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Avon and Somerset	15,354	16,892	15,098	14,609	13,022	15,124	17,163	17,489	14,625	11,834
Bedfordshire	4,724	4,449	3,479	3,594	4,651	4,731	5,041	4,534	4,776	4,356
Cambridgeshire	3,440	3,425	3,058	2,929	2,508	2,875	3,301	3,120	3,371	4,107
Cheshire	4,838	4,961	5,463	5,729	4,975	5,765	6,385	6,515	4,592	4,463
Cleveland	3,925	4,204	4,331	4,793	4,709	5,994	5,575	6,597	4,611	4,013
Cumbria	4,223	3,787	3,597	3,507	3,595	3,540	3,488	3,446	2,855	2,654
Derbyshire	5,565	5,137	5,120	5,318	5,429	5,614	5,793	6,326	5,869	4,352
Devon and Cornwall	8,422	7,232	7,493	9,234	8,648	9,598	9,676	8,943	7,404	7,500
Dorset	5,271	4,198	4,776	6,035	5,262	6,176	7,034	6,075	5,752	5,177
Durham	3,992	4,261	5,899	5,470	5,394	5,840	5,802	5,300	4,454	3,285
Essex	7,161	7,025	7,336	7,898	7,708	7,811	7,489	7,132	7,035	6,507

Table 8: Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], by police force area, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

									Number of offences	
Police force area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Gloucestershire	3,577	4,465	4,443	4,174	4,683	4,417	4,412	3,695	3,500	2,838
Greater Manchester	30,655	30,836	33,228	33,783	37,088	36,337	38,208	34,942	30,280	26,516
Hampshire	11,768	11,957	11,553	10,599	10,349	10,912	10,619	9,750	7,882	6,529
Hertfordshire	4,580	5,799	4,748	5,258	5,836	6,612	7,216	7,463	7,763	7,641
Humberside	4,408	4,279	4,894	5,024	4,730	4,464	5,509	5,170	4,840	5,085
Kent	6,915	6,958	6,151	9,033	9,592	10,059	9,788	10,673	8,535	8,154
Lancashire	20,134	18,794	18,111	18,334	16,280	17,555	21,229	16,065	17,960	15,246
Leicestershire	9,766	9,481	11,056	10,263	10,475	10,609	11,304	10,833	7,306	5,912
Lincolnshire	4,589	5,080	5,365	4,500	4,083	4,242	5,883	6,621	5,644	5,242
London, City of	2,671	3,127	2,521	1,738	1,836	2,353	2,563	2,812	1,499	1,575
Merseyside	10,896	9,747	8,932	10,054	9,467	10,360	12,776	13,023	10,728	7,807
Metropolitan Police	42,283	35,064	31,285	29,649	32,012	36,485	43,100	47,806	47,223	46,132
Norfolk	3,912	3,434	3,468	3,951	4,744	5,563	6,322	5,084	4,442	4,054
Northamptonshire	4,999	4,849	5,571	3,049	2,028	1,211	4,157	5,804	4,441	3,859
Northumbria	12,470	11,837	13,296	13,195	12,504	12,309	12,951	11,685	11,728	10,347
North Yorkshire	3,926	3,744	4,003	3,905	3,545	3,340	3,774	4,065	3,865	3,270
Nottinghamshire	8,078	8,726	7,957	7,748	7,836	7,460	9,224	9,224	7,358	5,994
South Yorkshire	11,228	11,553	11,763	12,690	14,623	13,859	13,745	11,416	11,246	10,307
Staffordshire	8,180	8,210	8,621	8,777	6,027	7,056	7,214	7,439	7,224	6,328
Suffolk	3,258	3,743	4,189	3,923	4,123	4,799	5,808	5,718	4,279	3,799
Surrey	4,942	3,908	4,436	4,941	5,101	5,594	4,657	3,927	4,491	4,173
Sussex	9,333	8,202	7,415	6,796	6,814	6,413	5,808	4,371	4,569	5,074
Thames Valley	11,887	11,940	13,543	12,816	11,728	12,842	14,516	12,920	11,255	10,329
Warwickshire	4,316	3,760	3,523	4,135	4,204	3,711	3,756	4,160	3,469	3,512
West Mercia	7,082	8,207	7,450	7,686	7,787	7,849	7,735	7,249	7,144	7,042
West Midlands	29,878	30,928	27,409	28,148	27,010	32,339	36,409	39,696	34,786	29,998
West Yorkshire	23,980	23,549	25,776	26,529	27,618	24,873	26,966	32,404	26,667	21,641
Wiltshire	3,463	4,820	4,708	4,901	6,292	5,326	4,794	4,641	4,599	4,466
Dyfed-Powys	3,079	2,852	3,017	3,072	2,953	3,306	3,094	2,244	2,639	2,413
Gwent	4,097	4,478	4,491	4,680	4,758	4,588	4,083	3,474	3,241	3,088
North Wales	4,859	4,452	4,102	3,097	3,376	4,048	5,968	6,022	4,211	5,057
South Wales	14,829	16,187	15,406	14,615	13,805	16,499	16,932	15,946	12,605	11,805
England and Wales	397,133	390,074	387,419	391,659	388,298	410,398	447,267	441,819	392,763	353,481

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s143(2).

[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought for offences related to the use of a mobile telephone whilst driving in each police force area in the latest year for which figures are available. [231407]

Maria Eagle: Available information on prosecutions in 2006 (latest available) taken from the Court Proceedings Database held by my Department, is provided in the table. Data for 2007 should be available at the end of November this year.

The majority of "use of hand held mobile phone while driving" offences are dealt with under the fixed penalty notices scheme. The table does not include fixed penalty notices but does include cases where fixed penalty notices were issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1,2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2006

Police force area	*Total court proceedings*[2]
Avon and Somerset	54
Bedfordshire	76
Cambridgeshire	52
Cheshire	36
Cleveland	20
Cumbria	57
Derbyshire	35
Devon and Cornwall	52
Dorset	4
Durham	16
Essex	71
Gloucestershire	10
Greater Manchester	183
Hampshire	69
Hertfordshire	65
Humberside	45
Kent	

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1,2] *by police force area, England and Wales, 2006*

Police force area	*Total court proceedings*[2]
Lancashire	62
Leicestershire	26
Lincolnshire	30
London, City of	24
Merseyside	46
Metropolitan Police	685
Norfolk	31
Northamptonshire	[3]—
Northumbria	98
North Yorkshire	34
Nottinghamshire	17
South Yorkshire	43
Staffordshire	19
Suffolk	21
Surrey	92
Sussex	[3]—
Thames Valley	211
Warwickshire	20
West Mercia	88
West Midlands	121
West Yorkshire	52
Wiltshire	38
Dyfed Powys	15
Gwent	6
North Wales	30
South Wales	28
England and Wales	2,682

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3).

[2] May include cases where fixed penalty was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] Nil.

Note:

It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

Electoral Commission: Powers of Entry

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what powers of entry the Electoral Commission has; what powers it has to enter the homes of *(a)* election agents and *(b)* candidates in elections; and in what way powers of entry regarding these groups will change if the provisions of the Political Parties and Elections Bill are enacted. [232942]

Mr. Wills: The Commission has powers under section 146 (3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 to enter premises and take copies of information relating to income and expenditure from a registered political party, a recognised third party and a permitted participant in a referendum. This power can be exercised by the Commission for the purposes of carrying out its functions. At present, the power to enter premises does not apply to election agents or candidates in elections (except candidates at a local election in Scotland). However, the Commission does currently have powers under section 146(1) to require the disclosure of documents relating to income and expenditure from election agents or candidates. It is a criminal offence under section 146(5) to fail to comply with such a requirement.

The Bill repeats the existing power to enter in clause 1(5) of Schedule 19A (to be inserted into the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 by Schedule 1 to the Bill). It also extends it to candidates (other candidates in Scottish local government elections), election agents, regulated donees (including MPs) and regulated participants. The result is that the original PPERA power for the Commission to enter premises for the purposes of carrying out its functions will now apply to election agents and candidates, alongside the other individuals and organisations listed in paragraph 1(1) in Schedule 19A.

In addition, the Political Parties and Elections Bill seeks to provide new powers for use by the Commission when it undertakes an investigation into a suspected breach of PPERA. To this end the Bill provides the Commission with new powers to request information, to put questions and to apply for a warrant to enable it to enter premises when carrying out an investigation into a suspected offence or other contravention of the 2000 Act. These powers are capable of applying to election agents and candidates who have such information in the same way that they may apply to anyone else. However, we have also introduced a number of important safeguards for the use of these new powers. In relation to entry of premises under this new power, the Commission will need to apply for a warrant under paragraph 3 of Schedule 19A. There is no automatic right of entry. For a warrant to be issued, the Commission must demonstrate on oath to a justice of the peace that it have reasonable grounds for believing that an offence has been committed (or other contravention of PPERA has occurred). They must also establish that documents are on the premises that were withheld following an earlier request or that are otherwise relevant to the investigation. When entering the premises, they must be accompanied at all times by a constable.

As I made clear in the Second Reading debate on the Bill, we have heard the force of opinion in the House on the issue of the Commission's powers and will consider what can be done to address it.

Judicial Pension Fund

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many judges will have received payments from the Judicial Pension Fund in 2008 by the end of the year. [231139]

Mr. Straw: Data on the number of members of the judicial pension scheme, including pensioners, are available in the published resource accounts. The figures published for 2006-07 show that there were 918 judicial pensioners. Copies of the accounts are held in the House of Commons Library.

National Offender Management Service: Per Capita Costs

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the estimated cost of each Director of Offender Management in the National Offender Management Service for 2009-10 is. [232631]

Mr. Malik: Following pilots in London and Wales, plans are now in place to appoint Directors of Offender Management (DOMs) who will be responsible for the delivery of prison and probation services in all the English regions and in Wales.

The posts will be at director level (senior civil servant pay band two) and all 10 DOM posts are expected to be filled by April 2009.

The pay scale for a senior civil servant (pay band 2) director starts at £81,600 up to a ceiling of £160,000 per annum.

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of each regional offender manager in the National Offender Management Service since their inception in 2004. [232632]

Mr. Malik: The following table shows the resource expenditure recorded against each regional offender manager (in Wales, director of offender management) for 2005-06 to 2007-08. For 2004-05, figures are not separately identifiable. The costs include the regional offender managers, their immediate staff and non-pay costs. Accommodation costs are met centrally and not included. In 2006-07 some other programme costs (e.g. grants to service providers and private prison controllers) may be included and are not separately identifiable. Costs related to private sector prisons' controllers are not included in figures for 2005-06 and 2007-08.

Resource expenditure recorded against each regional offender manager (in Wales, director of offender management) for 2005-06 to 2007-08

£

Regional offender managers/directors of offender management	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
ROM North East	511,569	580,889	833,842
ROM North West	521,428	1,486,540	1,344,590
ROM Yorkshire and Humberside	461,711	1,405,300	792,241
ROM East Midlands	517,534	1,082,614	925,111
ROM West Midlands	484,690	1,135,070	933,041
ROM East of England	462,669	950,336	845,960
DOM Wales	475,853	691,959	1,087,512
ROM London	531,079	551,002	910,946
ROM South East	757,449	1,066,078	1,030,384
ROM South West	686,966	1,115,545	1,066,824
Total	5,410,948	10,065,333	9,770,449

Offenders: Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners were being held in prisons awaiting deportation after their due release date on 1 October 2008. [231575]

Mr. Hanson: No information is held centrally for 1 October as information is gathered weekly from prisons every Monday.

However, on 29 September 2008, 467 time served foreign national prisoners were being held in prison custody, and on 6 October, 436 were being held. These prisoners were being considered for either deportation or removal from the UK.

Offenders: Greater London

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of persistent offenders there were in *(a)* the London borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in the latest period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231808]

Mr. Hanson: There are two statistical counts of persistent offenders used in the criminal justice system.

The first count is of persistent young offenders (PYOs). A PYO is a young person aged 10 to 17 who has been sentenced guilty of recordable offences on three or more separate occasions, and within three years of the last of these is arrested by the police for a further recordable offence.

During the three month period from April to June 2008, there were 7,389 criminal court cases across England and Wales in which PYOs were found guilty and sentenced. In the London metropolitan area there were 804 such cases. Of these, 17 were in the borough of Hillingdon. Counts of cases against offenders are not collected at any level lower than this borough.

Further information on PYOs can be found on the Ministry of Justice website:

www.justice.gov.uk/publications/averagetimearresttosentencepyo.htm

The second is for prolific and other priority offenders (PPOs). The PPO programme tackles a small hard-core of offenders (not confined to any age group) who commit a disproportionate amount of crime, and cause disproportionate damage to their communities. It is a crime reduction programme with a reducing re-offending focus.

Data from the PPO scheme performance framework indicated that at the end of March 2008 there were a total of 11,296 PPOs being managed in England and Wales. In London, there were 1,172 of these offenders being managed, of whom 23 were in Hillingdon. Counts of offenders being managed are not available at lower level than this borough.

Additional information on PPOs is available on the Home Office Crime Reduction web-pages:

www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to his comments before the Justice Committee on 7 October 2008, HC 1076-i, Question 67, what plans he has to reassess the appropriateness of commencing the new trigger rules at Royal Assent before the Electoral Commission guidance is published. [232937]

Mr. Wills: Clause 19(4) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141) provides that clause 10 of that Bill will come into force on the date on which the Bill receives Royal Assent. However, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) indicated before the Justice Committee on 7 October, we are ready to look at the issue.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether parliamentary candidates who have *(a)* announced and *(b)* promoted their candidature prior to Royal Assent to the Political Parties and Election Bill will on Royal Assent be deemed to have automatically announced their candidature for the purposes of the new trigger rules. [232941]

Mr. Wills: The effect of clause 10 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141) will be that the key consideration in determining whether or not the candidate expenditure limit applies will be the purpose for which expenditure is used. Whether or not a person has formally announced or promoted their candidature will not be the crucial factor, as the clause provides that election expenses can include those incurred by a person who later formally becomes a candidate.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the impact assessment for the Political Parties and Elections Bill, what the evidential basis was for the calculation that between 2,000 and 3,000 donations each year would be regulated. [232943]

Mr. Wills: The figures in the impact assessment for the numbers of donations potentially affected by the additional declaration requirements in clause 8 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill are estimates, as there is no publicly available data on the number of donations accepted by political parties of amounts between £200 and the thresholds above which the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 requires that donations be reported to the Electoral Commission and publicly disclosed. The estimates were arrived at through extrapolating from the publicly available data on donations of over £5,000 to parties' central offices and £1,000 to local accounting units. These estimates were intended to represent an average yearly figure, taking into account the fact that levels of donations increase considerably towards the end of an electoral cycle.

The Government accept that a number of political parties have concerns that the impact assessment underestimates the compliance burden that the requirements of clause 8 might impose on political parties. As I indicated at Second Reading of the Political Parties and Elections Bill, representations have been received from a number of parties that the £200 limit is too low, and we have also received wider representations about the impact of clause 8 on those charged with complying with the law. Although I am clear that greater transparency is essential, it should not be achieved at the cost of overburdening political parties and I am ready to consider representations on the detail of our proposals in that area.

Prison Service: Disabled

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) if he will publish HM Prison Service's last *(a)* three-year review and *(b)* three annual reviews of its disability equality scheme; [231479]

(2) what measures he has put into place to ensure that prison service staff receive independent advice on disability issues following the disapplication of the Home Office Disability Support Network to prison service staff; [231480]

(3) what assessment he has made of the merits of introducing a support network for prison service staff with disabilities; and what account that assessment took of *(a)* the Code of Practice for the Public Sector to promote disability equality and *(b)* other requirements under disability equality legislation; [231481]

(4) what support networks are in place for *(a)* black and minority ethnic, *(b)* lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender and *(c)* other groups of prison service staff; and what plans he has to introduce a support network for prison service staff with disabilities. [231483]

Mr. Malik: HM Prison Service's Associate Disability Equality Scheme was published in December 2006. The employment duties of the Disability Equality Scheme were encompassed in HM Prison Service's Single Staff Diversity Scheme which was published in April 2007. Copies of both documents will be placed in the Library of the House. I will write to the hon. and learned Member about the review process attached to these schemes.

The Ministry of Justice has a support network for staff with disabilities which all staff within the Ministry, including Prison Service staff, can join as associate members.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) commissioned an independent review of staff support networks for Prison Service staff in April 2008. That review considered options for staff networks that would be in alignment with the business of the agency and this included options for a network for Prison Service staff with disabilities. The agency is currently considering the findings and recommendations of that review.

The review has taken into account the reference in the code of practice for the public sector to public authorities considering having disabled staff network groups as well as ensuring that the agency is compliant with disability equality legislation.

NOMS currently provides an official support network for black and minority ethnic Prison Service staff and an official support network for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender Prison Service staff. Prison Service staff who have disabilities are currently able to be supported by the Ministry of Justice's support network for staff with disabilities. NOMS is currently considering whether and in what form to establish a separate official network for Prison Service staff with disabilities following an independent review of its staff networks.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prison staff have disabilities. [231482]

Mr. Malik: On 30 September 2008, 1,701 prison staff in the public and private sectors have declared themselves as having a disability. This represents 3 per cent. of all prison staff.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* prisoner on prisoner, *(b)* prisoner on staff and *(c)* staff on prisoner (i) rapes and (ii) sexual assaults were reported in (A) male and (B) female prisons in England and Wales in each of the last 10 years. [231564]

Mr. Hanson: The Government are committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and from mid 2007 this has been applied to both the public sector and contracted estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety. The Prison Officers Association are partners in its approach.

(i) Reports of rape in England and Wales

Rape is a legal term dependent on conviction and this information is not held centrally by NOMS.

(ii) Reports of sexual assaults in prisons in England and Wales

The data are contained in the following tables. Due to improved recording over the years, figures from 1998 to 2001 are not directly comparable with those from more recent years. The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. At any one time the system will include some proven and unproven allegations; some of the latter are removed/reclassified at a later date. Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: Prisoner on Prisoner, Prisoner on Officer, Prisoner on Other and Other (which may include non-prisoner perpetrators). The 'Prisoner on Officer' and 'Prisoner on Other' categories mostly refer to assaults on staff. However 'the latter category may include some non staff victims for example visitors. The 'Other' category includes assaults or allegations of assault by non prisoners including any by staff, visitors etc.

Male Prisons

Sexual Assaults Male Prisons	*Prisoner on prisoner*	*Prisoner on officer*	*Prisoner on other*	*Other*	*Total*
1998	38	9		2	49
1999	55	5	2		62
2000	64	6	6	6	82
2001	56	6	9	5	76
2002	94	7	4	5	110
2003	74	12	7	3	96
2004	77	16	6	6	105
2005	74	15	6	15	110
2006	77	18	7	18	120
2007	72	13	9	5	99

Note:

From 2007 figures do not include the three prisons (Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst) where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system.

Female Prisons

Sexual Assaults Female Prisons	*Prisoner on prisoner*	*Prisoner on officer*	*Prisoner on other*	*Other*	*Total*
1998	3	—	—	1	4
1999	7	5	—	1	13
2000	13	2	—	1	16
2001	2	1	—	1	4
2002	7	1	2		10
2003	13	2	1	2	18
2004	18	—	—	—	18
2005	9	—	—	1	10
2006	5	3	—	—	8
2007	12	3	—	—	15

Prisons: Security

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 17 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on departmental security, how many identity cards and security passes were reported lost or stolen at *(a)* HMP Pentonville, *(b)* HMP Holloway and *(c)* Young Offender Institution Holloway in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [229358]

Mr. Hanson: It is extremely rare for passes to be lost. When a pass is lost/stolen, the member of staff concerned completes a report detailing the circumstances. That is reported to the security department, the gatekeeper and NOMS Security Group, and cascaded to all prisons. Procedures ensure that only those with permission to do so enter prisons.

The table shows the number of reported lost or stolen NOMS identity cards/security passes in each of the last three financial years broken down by *(a)* prison and *(b)* year at Pentonville and Holloway[1] prisons.

These figures do not include passes issued to temporary or contracted (permanent and temporary) members of staff. Information on these groups of staff is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve analysing all security information reports from these prisons over the last three financial years.

[1] HMP Holloway and YOI Holloway are recorded as one establishment.

Lost or stolen security passes in each of the last three financial years at Pentonville and Holloway prisons

	Establishment name	
	HMP/YOI Holloway[1]	*HMP Pentonville*
2005-06	7	0
2006-07	6	0
2007-08	1	0

[1] HMP Holloway and YOI Holloway are recorded as one establishment.

Sentencing: Young People

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 16 to 18 year olds and *(b)* 18 to 21 year olds are currently serving custodial sentences; and what is the average length of sentence for each group. [232195]

Mr. Hanson: At the end of the August 2008 there were, 1,618 16 to 17-year-olds and 7,522 young adults serving custodial sentences in prison establishments in England and Wales.

The average length of sentence for:

(a) 16 to 17-year-olds serving a determinate sentence was 19 months;

(b) Young adults[1] serving a determinate sentence was 31 months.

The average lengths given here are longer than those for all sentenced offenders received into prison establishments. This is because the population of offenders in prison at any given time includes a larger proportion of those serving longer sentences.

The figures do not include juveniles held in secure training centres or secure children's homes

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

[1] Young adults are those aged 18 to 20 and those 21-year-olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

Young Offender Institutions: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of offenders in young offender institutions are dependent on at least one type of drug. [232196]

Mr. Hanson: Data on the number of prisoners in young offender institutions who are drug dependent are not recorded. Instead the National Offender Management Service relies on epidemiological research which has previously shown 76 per cent. of young male offenders aged 18-21 assessed (within a young offender institution) as being dependent on at least one drug.

Young Offender Institutions: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of providing a place in a young offenders institution in the latest year for which figures are available. [232197]

Mr. Hanson: The average cost per annum of a place at a young offender institution for 2001-08 was £32,799. This will include the provision of juvenile places at sites where both young offenders and juveniles are detained, as we are unable except at disproportionate cost to split these costs. The costs include only direct prison costs and exclude overhead costs.

Young Offenders: Sentencing

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average length of sentence was for young offenders aged *(a)* 10 to 15, *(b)* 16 to 17 and *(c)* 18 to 20 years for offences (i) involving violence against a person, (ii) of a sexual nature, (iii) of burglary, (iv) of robbery and (v) involving drugs where a custodial sentence was handed down in each year since 1997. [231776]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following table. The figures are a further breakdown of statistics found in Table 2.17 of the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin, 'Sentencing Statistics 2006'. The 2007 data will be published at the end of November.

Average length of immediate custodial sentence[1] for various age groups for various offence groups, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

		Average length of sentence (months)		
		Age group		
Offence group	*Year*	*10-16*	*16-17*	*18-20*
Violence against the person	1997	15.0	12.0	15.4
Sexual offences		37.7	41.3	37.8
Burglary		9.5	9.6	13.7
Robbery		22.4	21.7	32.4
Drug offences		17.0	13.8	19.7
Violence against the person	1998	9.8	11.4	14.3
Sexual offences		23.5	32.5	35.8
Burglary		8.7	9.9	13.3
Robbery		16.8	19.7	31.0
Drug offences		13.7	13.6	17.4
Violence against the person	1999	11.1	10.9	14.3
Sexual offences		23.8	33.8	29.3
Burglary		9.4	9.4	13.6
Robbery		15.9	20.1	31.8
Drug offences		17.8	14.1	18.2
Violence against the person	2000	9.6	12.4	14.3
Sexual offences		24.7	26.4	37.7
Burglary		8.7	10.0	13.5
Robbery		13.9	20.5	32.1
Drug offences		10.3	16.6	20.4
Violence against the person	2001	9.8	12.2	16.0
Sexual offences		22.7	28.5	32.7
Burglary		7.9	9.9	13.9
Robbery		13.5	18.2	32.5
Drug offences		7.7	14.4	20.5
Violence against the person	2002	10.6	14.5	16.7
Sexual offences		22.8	22.4	30.2
Burglary		9.3	11.4	14.8
Robbery		16.6	21.7	34.6
Drug offences		14.5	14.6	24.3
Violence against the person	2003	11.5	13.9	17.8
Sexual offences		28.4	27.5	31.8
Burglary		8.4	9.9	14.6
Robbery		14.5	20.6	34.3
Drug offences		10.6	19.1	25.4
Violence against the person	2004	12.8	14.7	17.6
Sexual offences		20.6	29.4	27.6
Burglary		8.6	10.6	15.7
Robbery		14.5	20.7	34.2
Drug offences		11.6	17.9	27.0
Violence against the person	2005	10.7	13.8	17.4
Sexual offences		25.0	31.5	34.4
Burglary		8.1	9.9	13.9
Robbery		12.9	18.6	31.4
Drug offences		9.4	15.8	26.5
Violence against the person	2006	10.4	13.5	16.3
Sexual offences		28.1	30.8	36.5
Burglary		7.4	9.2	13.9
Robbery		12.6	18.6	31.5
Drug offences		12.3	14.3	24.7

[1] Excludes life and indeterminate sentences.

Notes:

1. These data are on the principal offence basis.
2. Offenders receiving an indeterminate sentence of imprisonment for public protection for a serious offence would previously have received a lengthy determinate sentence that would have been included in the calculation of average custodial sentence length. These longer sentences are now effectively excluded since the calculation. This may account for the observed decrease in average custodial sentence lengths since 2004-05.
3. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Young People: Custodial Treatment

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he plans to take to ensure that expectation 19 of the HM Inspectorate of Prisons criteria for assessing the conditions for and treatment of children and young people in custody, on the arrival of children and young people at an institution no later than 7pm, is met in practice; and if he will make a statement. [231250]

Mr. Hanson: The policy of the National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Boards is that young people are escorted from court to their designated prison as soon as possible and before any closure time listed for the prison.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Applying the Proposed Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform for what reasons 22 July 2008 was chosen as the publication date for his Department's consultation paper towards a nuclear national policy statement, Applying the Proposed Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria: A Study of the Potential Environmental and Sustainability Effects. [223896]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The consultation document "Towards a nuclear national policy statement, Applying the Proposed Strategic Siting Assessment Criteria: A Study of the Potential Environmental and Sustainability Effects" was published on 22 July 2008 because it was the first possible date for publication after the document had been completed. The House was notified of the publication via a written ministerial statement and in addition the Department for BERR issued a press release. The consultation has been extended from 12 to 16 weeks to take account of the fact it overlaps with the summer period and to provide consultees with the maximum opportunity to input their views. The Department for BERR also held three stakeholder engagement events in September to assist people in making an input into the consultation.

Consumer Focus: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the budget is for Consumer Focus in each of the next three financial years. [232695]

Mr. Thomas: Ministers have agreed a budget of £15 million for Consumer Focus in the financial year 2009-10 plus an additional £2.2 million for legacy bodies' property costs. In subsequent years, Consumer Focus's final budget allocation will be confirmed as part of the Department's annual business planning round.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229540]

Mr. McFadden: The number and proportion of civil servants in civil service pension schemes in BERR and its agencies is:

	Number	*Proportion (percentage)*
(a) classic	4,662	64
(b) classic plus	279	4
(c) nuvos	356	5
(d) premium	1,879	26

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229108]

Mr. McFadden: Since the inception of the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in 2007, there have been no civil servants seconded to work for the trade unions or Trades Union Congress.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222050]

Mr. Thomas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 90W.

Energy: Coatbridge

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many households in Coatbridge, Chryston and Bellshill constituency use a pre-payment meter; and if he will make a statement. [226004]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The lowest geographical level at which the Department holds the requested data for gas is national level, and for electricity separately for North and South Scotland. As of June 2008, there were around 177,000 households using a gas prepayment meter in Scotland, around 10 per cent. of all customer accounts.

For electricity, as of June 2008, there were around 107,000 households using a prepayment meter in north Scotland, around 17 per cent. of all customer accounts. For south Scotland, the corresponding figure was 328,000, or 18 per cent. of all households.

Enterprise Capital Funds

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps have been taken to encourage bids from the creative industries for Enterprise Capital Funds. [227172]

Ian Pearson: Creative industries are an important sector of the UK economy. Earlier this year Government made a public statement that they welcome applications to Enterprise Capital Funds from all sectors, including creative businesses, in the creative economy strategy 'Creative Britain—New Talents for the New Economy'. Capital for Enterprise Limited—our arms length body responsible for the delivery of the Enterprise Capital Funds—announced the subsequent bidding round to a wide field of potential applicants. Capital for Enterprise Limited have offered to meet with all potential bidders to help explain the process and provide feedback. The Enterprise Capital Fund programme provides risk capital of up to £2 million for small high growth businesses from a range of sectors including the creative industries.

Fireworks Act 2003

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of regulations made under the Fireworks Act 2003; and if he will make a statement. [232675]

Mr. Thomas: The regulations made under the Fireworks Act 2003 will be reviewed during the course of implementation of the pyrotechnics directive, the work for which will commence shortly.

Fireworks: Accidents

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what information his Department gathers on the number of accidents caused by fireworks operated by the public. [230769]

Mr. Thomas: BERR collects no statistics on home injuries, including those caused by fireworks.

Formula One

Adam Price: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* briefing and *(b)* minutes the then Secretary of State for Trade and Industry received from (i) 10 Downing Street and (ii) Ministerial colleagues in relation to the business interests of Formula One and its associated companies in November 1997. [228816]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: Having conducted a search of records relating to automotive issues, BERR has not been able to locate any files on motorsport dating back to November 1997.

However, we are aware of one document released following a freedom of information request which has been published on the Department of Health website—a minute from DTI dated 18 November 1997 about the importance of Formula One to the UK.

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/DH_089217 (Document 39)

Fuel Poverty

Danny Alexander: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much his Department spent tackling fuel poverty in each of the last 10 years; and how much it expects to spend in the next 12 months. [225196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Before the establishment of the Department for Energy and Climate Change, Government responsibility for funding fuel poverty programmes rested with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, not the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR). However, between 2005-06 and 2007-08, BERR contributed £2 million to two demonstration programmes in north-east England and Yorkshire and Humberside to provide microgeneration and mains gas to deprived communities. In June 2008, BERR announced a further £3 million fuel poverty pilot within the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. BERR has also made available £150,000 to Citizens Advice to deliver the 'Energy Best Deal' project, which will promote switching of supplier among vulnerable groups. These funding streams are moving to the new Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Nuclear Power Stations: Decommissioning

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he anticipates that decommissioning work at Trawsfynydd nuclear power station will be complete. [224507]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 6 October 2008]*: I have been asked to reply.

The NDA Strategy, published in March 2006, anticipates that the decommissioning and final site clearance of Trawsfynydd will be completed in 2096.

Post Offices: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post offices and sub-post offices were closed in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the periods between *(a)* 1987 and 1996 and *(b)* 1997 and 2008. [231943]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post Offices: Franchises

Justine Greening: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform by what criteria the *(a)* franchise fee charged by Post Office Ltd to its franchisees and *(b)* annual fee charged by Post Office Ltd to locally funded post offices is set; and if he will make a statement. [232427]

Mr. McFadden: These are operational matters for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have, therefore, asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL to reply directly to the hon. Member.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Power Stations: Plymouth

Mr. Streeter: To ask the Minster of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made in establishing an energy park at Langage, Devon, pursuant to the licence granted to the former Department of Trade and Industry to build a power station on the site. [222416]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Planning permission from the local planning authority for the first 10,000 sq m of office development has been granted. As the hon. Member is aware, the energy park development program is closely tied to that of the power station. The Department has been informed that the access road for the power station, which is required before construction of the energy park development can proceed, is still not complete and is now targeted for late summer 2009.

Renewable Energy

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps the Government have taken to increase the use of sustainable energy. [224990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have taken a range of steps to increase the use of renewable and low carbon energy in the UK. We have recently consulted on potential measures on how the UK could increase its use of renewable energy to meet its share of the 2020 EU renewable energy target; and published the Transmission Access Review, setting out measures to allow faster connection of renewable generation to the electricity grid and the timely delivery of new infrastructure necessary to meet that target.

We also plan to consult in the autumn on an energy savings and heat strategy which will focus on low-carbon solutions to decarbonise the UK's heat supply.

The UK needs a diverse mix of low-carbon energy sources to contribute to our energy and climate change goals and we have this year taken the decision to allow companies to build and operate new nuclear power stations. Facilitative actions being taken should enable companies to bring new nuclear power stations into operation from 2017-20.

We are taking a global lead on clean coal power generation by launching a competition to secure one of the world's first commercial-scale carbon capture and storage demonstration projects on a coal-fired power station; and we continue to support energy efficiency and low carbon technologies from R and D to deployment.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plan to take to facilitate the development and use of sustainable energy. [224991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are fully committed to facilitating the development and use of sustainable and low carbon energy. The Government published a consultation document in June setting out a range of potential measures to deliver further increases in renewable energy to meet our ambitions for 2020 and beyond. In the light of consultation responses, we will set out our full renewable energy strategy in spring next year. We also plan to consult in the autumn on an energy savings and heat strategy which will focus on energy saving measures, particularly in the household sector, and low-carbon solutions to decarbonise the UK's heat supply.

The Government provide support for renewable electricity through the renewables obligation which is estimated to be worth around a billion pounds a year to the renewables sector by 2010; we will continue to support and promote energy efficiency and innovation in low carbon technologies from R and D to deployment.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230739]

Mr. McFadden: BERR leads on three cross-Government public service agreements (PSAs)—PSA 1 (Raise the productivity of the UK economy); PSA 6 (Deliver the conditions for business success in the UK); and PSA 7 (Improve the economic performance of all English regions and reduce the gap in economic growth rates between regions). BERR has signed up as a key delivery partner for the following PSAs: PSA 2 (Improve the skills of the population, on the way to ensuring a world-class skills base by 2020); PSA 8 (Maximise employment opportunity for all); and PSA 27 (Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change). It is a requirement for all new policies and programmes to be subject to an impact assessment which includes rural proofing.

Small Firms Loan Guarantee

Alan Duncan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which business sectors are excluded from the Small Firms Loan Guarantee; and if he will make a statement. [229061]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: The small Firms Loan Guarantee is available to qualifying businesses in most business sectors. Sectoral restrictions apply principally in the transport, agriculture, coal and steel sectors. Restrictions generally arise from either the Industrial Development Act of 1982, which provides the statutory basis for SFLG, or from European State Aid rules designed to prevent public interventions from distorting the market. In April 2003, sectoral restrictions on retail, catering and other local service businesses were removed.

Alan Duncan: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many instances of default claims have been made under the Small Firms Loan Guarantee in each of the last five years. [229063]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]*: The following table sets out the number of defaults made against the SFLG Guarantee over each of the last five full calendar years.

	Number of SFLG demands
2003	1,428
2004	1,644
2005	2,009
2006	2,161
2007	2,322

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 4 November 2008

SCOTLAND

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230948]

Mr. Jim Murphy: None.

TRANSPORT

A12: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road accidents there were on the A12 in Essex in each of the last 10 years; and how many of these accidents resulted in *(a)* death and *(b)* serious injury. [233137]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The numbers of reported personal injury road accidents on the A12 in Essex and the number of these accidents resulting in *(a)* death and *(b)* serious injury are shown in the table, for each year from 1998 to 2007.

	All injury accidents	*Fatal accidents*[1]	*Serious accidents*[1]
1998	181	6	26
1999	198	8	25
2000	200	5	32
2001	239	6	41
2002	231	4	45
2003	199	4	36
2004	225	4	54
2005	221	6	44
2006	169	5	36
2007	181	4	23

[1] Accidents are classified according to the severity of the most severely injured casualty; some fatal accidents will also have seriously injured casualties.

Aircraft: Oxygen

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on airline companies' obligations with regard to allowing people with a lung condition to *(a)* access oxygen provided, *(b)* take their own (i) portable oxygen cylinders and (ii) portable oxygen concentrator on board flights; and what guidance he has issued on this matter. [231699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: European Regulation 1107/2006 on the rights of disabled persons and persons with reduced mobility when travelling by air, came fully into force in July 2008. It imposes a number of obligations on airlines with respect to the services they provide, including an obligation to carry passengers' medical equipment free of charge. However, there are no specific obligations to carry or provide oxygen in the cabin.

To help the air transport industry to comply with its obligations under the regulation, the Department for Transport has published an updated version of its code of practice 'Access to Air Travel for Disabled Persons and Persons with Reduced Mobility'. The code includes a section on oxygen which advises that air carriers may approve the carriage of gaseous (not liquid) oxygen or air cylinders required for medical use, but notes that carriers will wish to ensure that these do not pose a risk to security. The code also recommends that portable oxygen concentrator devices should normally be allowed if battery powered. Where air carriers wish to supply medical oxygen to passengers on request, the code acknowledges that it would be possible to make a charge for this service to cover the provision of the oxygen.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce abuse of blue badges for disabled parking. [232226]

Paul Clark: In October 2007 we introduced legislation to change the design of the badge to include an anti-fraud hologram and a new serial number to help prevent fraud and aid enforcement.

In January 2008 we revised local authority guidance to improve administrative consistency and enforcement and launched a £0.5 million local authorities centres of excellence fund, designed to promote good practice in administering and enforcing the scheme.

In March 2008 we began a pilot experiment of new tamper proof laminates designed to further enhance badge security.

Most recently, on 20 October 2008, the Department for Transport published a Comprehensive Blue Badge (Disabled Parking) Reform Strategy. This strategy contains a number of commitments to fight fraud and abuse of the Blue Badge Scheme.

Departmental Staff

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many employment agency staff work in each of his Department's bargaining units on a *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent basis. [231747]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The central Department and its agencies had a headcount *(a)* of 523 agency staff, as at end of September 2008. This figure excludes the Government Car and Despatch Agency.

Department for Transport	*Headcount of staff*
DfT (Central)	97
Driving Standards Agency	119
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	22
Highways Agency	164

Department for Transport	*Headcount of staff*
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	35
Vehicle Certification Agency	1
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	85
Total	523

An accurate full-time equivalent *(b)* figure could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving: Safety

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what research his Department is undertaking into the effects of fatigue on drivers; [232323]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the effects of *(a)* fatigue and *(b)* obstructive sleep apnoea on drivers. [232324]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department is conducting research on the potential use of fatigue risk management systems with the object of developing guidance for their use by those who employ drivers. The research is expected to be completed in the first half of 2009. Early indications from the project suggest that such systems offer considerable potential as a more effective method of managing fatigue than compliance with hours of work limits alone. They encourage employers to identify fatigue-related risk factors within their business and to consider the full range of potential contributors to fatigue, both work-related (e.g. work practices, shift patterns) and individual (e.g. lifestyle, medical conditions).

At the European level, our researchers were most recently involved with the IMMORTAL project (Impaired Motorists, Methods of Roadside Testing and Assessment for Licensing). This project, which concluded in 2005, included a workshop on Fatigue (Fatigue, Sleepiness and Reduced Alertness as Risk Factors in Driving) with a particular focus on obstructive sleep apnoea and other sleep disorders. A departmental research manager was a co-author of the report arising from this workshop. That is online at:

www.toi.no/getfile.php/Publikasjoner/T%D81%20rapporter/2004/739-2004/739-2004-2.pdf.

There have been no more recent discussions with European counterparts.

Heathrow Airport

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether there are plans for National Air Traffic Services to undertake additional public consultation before any introduction of *(a)* mixed-mode and *(b)* a third runway at Heathrow airport; and if he will make a statement; [232320]

(2) what procedures would be followed if BAA sought permission to introduce mixed-mode *(a)* within the 480,000 cap and *(b)* exceeding the 480,000 cap. [232321]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The "Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport" consultation closed on 27 February and we expect to announce a decision on the future development of Heathrow by the end of the year.

If mixed-mode operations are supported (either within the current movements cap or with additional movements), it would be for the airport operator to bring forward plans and obtain the necessary planning approvals. It would also be the responsibility of the airport operator and National Air Traffic Services to further assess the indicative airspace and air traffic control arrangements presented in the consultation to meet the statutory requirements of the Civil Aviation Authority. This could include further consultation, where appropriate, in accordance with the CAA's Airspace Change Process.

London Airports: Smoking

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times evacuations of *(a)* the concourses, *(b)* the security and passports areas and *(c)* the airside areas of (i) Heathrow, (ii) Gatwick and (iii) Stansted airports have occurred following an alarm being triggered by a passenger smoking in a toilet in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231638]

Jim Fitzpatrick: We have been advised by BAA that it is unable to provide detailed information on how many evacuations have been carried out over the last 12 months due to a fire alarm being triggered without detailed analysis. As this is an operational matter for BAA, I suggest the hon. Member directs his inquiry to the chief executive of BAA.

Network Rail: Standards

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on Network Rail: standards, what improvement notices have been served on Network Rail by the Office of the Rail Regulator in the last 12 months. [233179]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) has served a total of 19 improvement notices on Network Rail in the last 12 months. Details of 18 of these notices have been entered on the public register. They can be found on ORR's website at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/.

One notice, served on Network Rail in June 2008, relating to the joint between non-adjustable stretcher bar brackets and switch rails, has been appealed by Network Rail and therefore has not been entered onto the public register.

Piracy: Gulf of Aden

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what steps he is taking to counter the incidence of piracy on the high seas, with particular reference to the Gulf of Aden; [226715]

(2) how many British seafarers are being held hostage as a consequence of piracy incidents on the high seas; and what steps he is taking to secure their release. [226716]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport is not aware of any British seafarers being held hostage as a consequence of piracy incidents. The Government are acutely aware of the dangers being faced by seafarers on board ships transiting the Gulf of Aden and abhor the loss of life incurred to date.

The UK is supportive of the IMO's efforts which calls for states interested in the safety and security of maritime activities to take part actively in the fight against piracy and armed robbery against ships off the coast of Somalia.

The Department has issued advice to seafarers on the measures that can be taken to prevent acts of piracy and armed robbery in Marine Guidance Note 298. We have also urged Masters to obtain up to date information about pirate attacks in order to plan their passage through the Gulf of Aden. This advice can be obtained from the Royal Navy's UK Maritime Trade Operation based in Dubai. The shipping industry has also been informed of the Maritime Security Patrol Area (MPSA) established by the Combined Maritime Forces. The MPSA does not eliminate the risk of criminal activity and shipping has been warned to exercise extreme caution and vigilance.

Piracy is an international problem that requires an international solution. The Government are playing their full part by pressing for effective international action to address the issue by tackling the problem at its roots on land. The Government are very concerned by increasing numbers of piracy and armed robbery attacks in and around Somali waters and we have noted the expressed concerns from industry. We are working proactively with our EU, NATO and Coalition Task Force 150 partners to counter the menace.

Railways: Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the level of crime on railways; [232222]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to improve police resources to prevent crime committed on railways. [232223]

Paul Clark: The total number of offences reported to the British Transport Police (BTP) reduced by 12 per cent. between 2006-07 and 2007-08 and crime remains low relative to the over one billion passenger journeys made each year. We nevertheless continue to work closely with the industry and the police to secure further improvements. Last year, the budget for the British Transport Police (BTP) increased by 5 per cent. and, at £271 million, is at more than twice the level it was six years ago. BTP numbers at London Underground and mainline stations have increased too and there are now 2,813 officers and 262 community support officers in the force.

Railways: Freight

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards the target of increasing rail freight by 80 per cent. by 2010 as stated in his Department's Transport Ten Year Plan of 2000; what the baseline year is against which this target is being measured; and how much rail freight there was in each year since 2000. [232008]

Paul Clark: The potential rail freight growth figure of up to 80 per cent. quoted in the Department for Transport's 10 year plan of 2000 was not a target. It was always recognised that actual growth would depend on a number of factors—in particular, the success of private sector rail freight operators in delivering improvements in performance and efficiency.

Detailed rail freight statistics covering the years from 2000 to 2008 are published in the Office for Rail Regulation's Rail Trends document on its website:

www.rail-reg.gov.uk

and by the Department for Transport in its Transport Statistics for Great Britain document on its website:

www.dft.gov.uk.

Since 2000-01 the amount of rail freight moved has increased by 17 per cent. In the last 18 months the Government have announced record levels of rail freight investment to support continued growth including £200 million towards the development of a strategic freight network and over £150 million of funding towards the provision of infrastructure enhancement for freight through the Productivity Transport Innovation Fund.

Railways: Safety

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to publicise the dangers of playing on or near railway tracks to young people; [232224]

(2) what recent steps the Government has taken to prevent children from playing on or near railway tracks. [232225]

Paul Clark: Network Rail's 'No Messin'!' campaign seeks to reduce crime and trespass on the railway by young people. It has been developed to appeal to them by using a style and language they will understand. Network Rail's initiative is reinforced by campaigns run by train operators to educate children in schools about the dangers of trespassing on the railway.

These measures are further supported by the British Transport Police who work with the industry to reduce incidents of crime and trespass.

Rapid Transit Systems

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards the target of creating 25 new rapid transit lines in major cities and conurbations by 2010 as stated in his Department's Transport 10 Year Plan of 2000; how many new rapid transit lines were created in each year since 2000; and by what percentage light rail passenger journeys have increased since 2000. [232012]

Paul Clark: The Ten Year Plan published in July 2000 set out indicative figures for the number of light rail schemes that might be delivered by 2010. This was neither a target nor a commitment for the Government.

The following light rail lines have been opened since 2000:

	Name of scheme	*Number of new lines*
2000	Croydon Tramlink	3
2000	Manchester Metrolink -Eccles extension	1
2002	Tyne and Wear Metro -Sunderland extension	1
2004	Nottingham Express Transit	1
2005	Docklands Light Railway - London City Airport extension	1

The following schemes are in preparation:

Name of scheme	*Stage reached*	*Number of new lines*
Docklands Light Railway -Extension to Woolwich Arsenal	Under construction, due to be completed in 2009	1
Manchester Metrolink -Extensions to Rochdale, Oldham, Chorlton and Droylsden	Under construction, project due to be completed in 2012	4
Nottingham Express Transit -Extensions to Clifton and Chilwell	Granted Programme Entry. If Full Approval is granted the lines could be completed by 2013	2
Manchester Metrolink -Extensions to Ashton, East Didsbury and Manchester Airport	Granted Programme Entry as part of Greater Manchester's Transport Innovation Fund bid	3
Manchester Metrolink -Extensions to Trafford, Oldham town centre, Rochdale town centre, and Second city crossing scheme	Schemes which currently have no approval status that Greater Manchester are also progressing as part of their Transport Innovation Fund bid	4

Light rail passenger journeys in England increased by 90 per cent. between 1999-2000 and from 98 million to 186 million passenger journeys in 2007-08.

Road Signs and Markings

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has authorised the erection of road signs which indicate metric rather than imperial measurements. [232445]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Department for Transport has not authorised any signs aimed at general road users that display metric measurements only.

For a traffic sign to be lawful, it must be either prescribed in the Traffic Signs Regulations and General Directions (TSRGD) (2002) or be authorised by the Secretary of State. In Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland, the devolved Administrations authorise non-prescribed signs for the roads in their areas.

TSRGD provides for the use of imperial measurements for distance and speed. Certain prescribed traffic signs may show metric units of measurement together with the corresponding imperial units—such as signs indicating maximum height or width restrictions. However, metric is not permitted as a replacement for imperial on such signs.

The Department has authorised the use of driver location signs and a limited number of distance marker posts for the trunk road and motorway network. These indicate an established referencing system, which uses metric units, to enable the emergency services to locate the scene of an incident without any confusion.

Road Traffic

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in achieving the target of reducing road congestion below 2000 levels as stated in his Department's Transport Ten Year Plan of 2000; against what baseline this target is being measured; and how much road congestion there was in each year since 2000, broken down by region. [232009]

Paul Clark: The Ten Year Plan gave an indicative figure for congestion on inter-urban trunk roads which was formalised in the SR2002 PSA target: to reduce congestion on the inter-urban road network in England below 2000 levels by 2010. However, subsequently the Government set out the case for new congestion performance targets in The Future of Transport White Paper published in July 2004. A new target was set in SR2004.

The baseline for the SR2004 target was published in February 2006 using new sources of journey time data. Inter-urban journey time reliability performance has since been regularly published against this baseline. The latest provisional data show the current level of performance for the 10 per cent. slowest journeys, which is the PSA measure, to be around the SR2004 baseline level for the year August 2004 to July 2005. This is also the case for all journeys.

Differences in sources used and in measurement mean that it is not possible to produce a consistent series of data from 2000 and report on trunk road congestion in Ten Year Plan terms. Also, data are not readily available at regional level as the current measure is based on routes which extend outside regional boundaries.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made in achieving the target of undertaking 80 major trunk road schemes to improve safety and traffic flows at junctions by 2010 as stated in his Department's Transport Ten Year Plan of 2000; and what major trunk road schemes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each year since 2000. [232010]

Paul Clark: The Ten Year Plan published in July 2000 set out a broad package of measures for improving transport. Over the 10 year period individual projects in the Highways Agency's programmes would flow from the outcome of multi-modal studies and decisions taken through regional transport strategies. Although the plan gave an indicative figure for trunk road schemes this is not a target that the Government monitor performance against.

Two tables have been placed in the Libraries of the House. Table A shows the Highways Agency major trunk road schemes started in each year since 2000 while table B shows schemes opened to traffic in each year since 2000.

Road Traffic: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Chelmsford on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 155, on traffic congestion, which *(a)* causes of and *(b)* locations prone to road accidents and collisions on the A12 in Essex will be prioritised for road safety improvement funding; and what funding he plans to make available for such improvements in the next three years. [232041]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Personal injury accidents on the motorway and trunk road network are monitored on a continuous basis by the Highways Agency and reported in its annual safety report. Accidents are reviewed on a route basis, and locations with disproportionately more accidents are prioritised for remedial action.

With regards to the A12 in Essex, in the period 2008-09 to 2011-12, the Highways Agency is intending to spend up to around £22 million on major maintenance improvements at Kelvedon and Witham and £2.5 million on an auxiliary lane southbound between Hatfield Peverel and Witham. All of these significant interventions will have some beneficial impact on safety, and other minor safety works are also planned. This work will be subject to availability of funding and prioritisation against other works on the strategic road network within the Eastern region.

Roads: Accidents

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to include cats within the provision of section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988; and if he will make a statement. [232487]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: There are no legislative proposals to include cats within the provision of section 170 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 which requires a driver to report accidents involving animals such as horses, cattle, asses, mules, sheep, pigs, goats and dogs. This requirement arises from their status as working animals.

There is no obligation to report all animal deaths on roads. The police advise drivers that, if possible, they should make inquiries to ascertain the owner of the cat and advise them of the situation.

Rolling Stock

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the percentage change in active rolling stock has been since 1997. [232024]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not keep the detailed information required. However, we know that in May 1995, the number of vehicles on lease was 10,401 and, as of today, the number on lease on the rail network is around 11,150, an increase of approximately 7.2 per cent. It should also be noted that a further 1,300 vehicles will be delivered as part of high level output specification (HLOS), of which 423 have already been ordered.

Transport: Expenditure

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much *(a)* public investment, *(b)* private capital investment and *(c)* public resource expenditure was spent on (i) rail, (ii) strategic roads, (iii) London transport, (iv) local transport and (v) other transport in each year since 2000, in (A) nominal and (B) real terms. [232006]

Mr. Hoon: The following table shows the public investment (capital) and public resource spending within the Department for Transport's departmental expenditure limit (DEL) on rail, strategic roads, London, local transport and other transport for each year since 2002-03. (Owing to classification, accounting and boundary changes comparable figures for earlier years are not available.)

£ million (nominal)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Public investment (capital)						
Rail	963	3,143	2,825	2,600	3,596	3,496
Strategic Roads	736	439	610	753	1,116	1,056
London	772	—	—	—	—	—
Local and regional transport	1,515	1,532	1,710	1,559	1,659	2,364
Other transport	139	119	77	83	132	135
Public resource expenditure						
Rail	289	1,111	1,444	1,219	1,322	1,163
Strategic Roads	1,339	1,518	1,418	1,576	1,752	1,787
London	1,025	2,550	2,261	2,182	2,641	2,400
Local and regional transport	339	385	407	431	542	659
Other transport	475	545	545	659	665	791

These figures do not include capital spending by local authorities funded through prudential borrowing, nor revenue spending by local authorities funded through general grant (paid by CLG) and council tax.

Data providing a comprehensive statement of private capital investment in these areas are not available.

The following table sets out the DEL spending shown above, expressed in real terms with a 2007-08 price base.

£ million (2007-08 prices)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Public investment (capital)						
Rail	1,101	3,487	3,051	2,752	3,706	3,496
Strategic Roads	841	487	659	797	1,150	1,056

£ million (2007-08 prices)

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
London	883	—	—	—	—	—
Local and regional transport	1,732	1,700	1,847	1,650	1,710	2,364
Other transport	158	132	83	88	136	135
Public resource expenditure						
Rail	330	1,232	1,560	1,290	1,362	1,163
Strategic Roads	1,531	1,684	1,532	1,668	1,805	1,787
London	1,172	2,829	2,442	2,309	2,721	2,400
Local and regional transport	388	427	439	457	558	659
Other transport	543	605	589	698	685	791

Transport: Regulatory Impact Assessments

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library copies of all regulatory impact assessments for *(a)* road projects and *(b)* other major transport infrastructure projects conducted since 1997. [232033]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not undertake regulatory impact assessments for road or other transport infrastructure projects as they are not regulatory in nature. Infrastructure projects are assessed in line with the new approach to appraisal (NATA) guidance.

Transport: Tyne and Wear

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what payments his Department has made to local authorities in Tyne and Wear for a pilot study under the Transport Innovation Fund; and what plans he has for the future funding of People in Motion. [231944]

Paul Clark: Tyne and Wear authorities have received a total of £1.7 million pump priming funding from the Department for Transport's Transport Innovation Fund. This funding was provided to support the development of Transport Innovation Fund packages that address local congestion problems combining demand management, including road pricing, with better public transport. We are awaiting the outcome of the work that has been carried out by Tyne and Wear's People in Motion partnership.

Vehicle Number Plates

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to amend the Road Vehicles (Display of Registration Marks) Regulations 2001 to permit the voluntary display of the Union Flag or other national identifiers. [232311]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* We have announced our intention to allow the voluntary display of national flags on vehicle number plates in England, Scotland and Wales. We are looking at how this can be brought forward as soon as possible.

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that drivers may legally display the *(a)* Union Flag, *(b)* flag of Saint Andrew and *(c)* flag of Saint George on car registration plates. [232494]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* We have announced our intention to allow the voluntary display of national flags on vehicle number plates in England, Scotland and Wales. We are looking at how this can be brought forward as soon as possible.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Better Government for Older People

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the sources of funding are of the Better Government for Older People initiative. [232813]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is in the following list..

Better Government for Older People Anticipated Sources of Funding 2008-09

Department for Work and Pensions grant in aid
Anchor Trust grant
Local Authorities subscriptions
Primary Care Trust subscriptions
Fire and Rescue organisation subscriptions
Police Associations subscriptions
Local Strategic Partnerships subscriptions
Recoverable VAT
Bank Interest

Community Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Department for Communities and Local Government on the community allowance pilots. [231485]

Mr. McNulty: We jointly announced with the Department for Communities and Local Government in Communities in Control: real people, real power (CM7427) that the CREATE Consortium could pilot the community allowance within the existing benefits and permitted work structure. This was part of ongoing discussions with the Department for Communities and Local Government to explore how to promote paid community work for out of work benefit claimants to improve their chances of moving into work and benefit the community in which they live.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will introduce a community allowance as part of the new employment and support allowance regime. [231487]

Mr. McNulty: We have always made clear that the CREATE consortium will be able to pilot the community allowance within the existing benefits and permitted work structure. We would want to see a full evaluation of the allowance and the impact on improving benefit claimants' chances of moving into work before we considered whether to introduce it more widely.

Compensation: Vaccination

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claims under the Vaccine Damage Payment Scheme (VDPS) have been made by people claiming damage by hepatitis A or hepatitis B vaccines; for what reasons unsuccessful claimants for payment in respect of these vaccines have been informed that if they wish to appeal they must do so within six years; and for what reason hepatitis A and hepatitis B vaccines are not included in the VDPS. [228905]

Jonathan Shaw: The Vaccine Damage Payments scheme only covers vaccines that are recommended as part of the routine childhood immunisation programme. The scheme does not cover hepatitis A or hepatitis B vaccines because they are not currently included in the childhood immunisation programme.

The Department does not collect information about the number of claims made by people claiming damage from hepatitis A or hepatitis B vaccines as this information is not required for the administration of the scheme.

People who make a vaccine damage payment claim in relation to vaccines not covered by the scheme are still given the right to appeal decisions they may disagree with. This practice helps ensure that customers have another opportunity to provide further information in support of their claim.

Council Tax Benefit

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households were in receipt of council tax benefit in each year since 1985; and how much was spent on council tax benefit in each of those years. [229889]

Kitty Ussher: Information on council tax benefit is available only from 1993-94 when it was introduced. The available information is in the following tables:

Council tax benefit expenditure and recipients, Great Britain

	Expenditure (£ million)	*Caseload (Thousand)*
1993-94	1,940	5,450
1994-95	2,077	5,615
1995-96	2,189	5,690
1996-97	2,311	5,618
1997-98	2,395	5,479
1998-99	2,452	5,306
1999-2000	2,511	5,051
2000-01	2,575	4,761
2001-02	2,686	4,664
2002-03	2,834	4,625
2003-04	3,223	4,693
2004-05	3,557	4,915
2005-06	3,774	5,029
2006-07	3,944	5,080
2007-08	4,023	5,089

Notes:
1. The expenditure figures presented here reflect nominal costs for the whole of Great Britain.
2. They are total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding, and include benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.
3. They reflect the latest benefit-by-benefit estimate of outturn, and not the amounts voted by Parliament.
4. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are estimated outturn and may change slightly once subsidy returns from all local authorities are audited.
5. Council tax benefit was introduced in April 1993.

Source:
Published expenditure tables to 2006-07, and estimated outturn for 2007-08.

Council Tax Benefits: Greater London

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefits in (i) London, (ii) the London Borough of Hillingdon and (iii) Uxbridge constituency in each year since 1997 for which figures are available. [231801]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates of the numbers eligible for council tax benefit are not available below the level of Great Britain. It is, therefore, not possible to provide estimates of the numbers entitled in London, the London borough of Hillingdon, and the constituency of Uxbridge.

The available information on recipients of council tax benefit for London and the London borough of Hillingdon is in the following table. Information is not available broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Number of council tax benefit recipients in London and the London borough of Hillingdon: as at May each year

	London	*Hillingdon*
1997	759,720	17,660
1998	728,260	17,520
1999	692,540	17,350
2000	628,650	16,980
2001	607,160	16,360
2002	615,320	16,090
2003	633,530	15,810
2004	672,070	17,360
2005	708,440	17,890
2006	717,610	18,140
2007	724,440	18,200

Notes:
1. Recipients refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in May 1997 to May 2007

Departmental Health and Safety

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps the Government has taken to improve health and safety regulation. [224315]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is committed to better, smarter health and safety legislation. In December 2007 it published its second Simplification Plan[1], which set out how it was reducing the administrative burden of health and safety regulation on businesses and making compliance easier, in particular for low risk, small and medium sized enterprises.

Among the regulatory improvements detailed in the plan was the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2007, which consolidated four sets of regulations, and improved the process for proving competency.

HSE is also improving guidance on regulations to help businesses understand and comply. For example, it has produced 29 example risk assessments for different sectors, showing businesses that a risk assessment does not need to be complicated.

Finally, the Better Regulation Executive has carried out a review of the health and safety regulatory regime, particularly for lower risk small businesses[2]. This has made several recommendations for improvement. Of those addressed to HSE, some are already being addressed through HSE's simplification work. Others will be considered through the development and subsequent implementation of HSE's new strategy.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232720]

Mr. McNulty: Details of contingent liabilities are contained in the departmental resource accounts each year. The dates on which these accounts were laid in the House over last five years were:

2007-08: 21 July 2008
2006-07: 24 July 2007
2005-06: 7 November 2006
2004-05: 26 January 2006
2003-04: 18 January 2005

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229541]

Jonathan Shaw: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Resource Accounts for the Department for Work and Pensions and its agencies for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following links:

Department for Work and Pensions Resource Accounts 2007-08 (pages 34 to 38 refer)

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2008/res_acc/report_2007_08.pdf

Jobcentre Plus Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 (pages 22 to 25 refer)

http://www.jobcentreplus.gov.uk/JCP/stellent/groups/jcp/documents/websitecontent/dev_015683.pdf

Child Support Agency Annual Report and Accounts 2007-08 (pages 30 to 32 refer)

http://www.csa.gov.uk/en/PDF/reports/annual_report_08.pdf

The Pension Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 (pages 52 to 55 refer)

http://www.thepensionservice.gov.uk/pdf/annualreport/appendices.pdf

Disability and Carers Service Annual Report and Accounts 2006-07 (pages 47 to 49 refer)

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/publications/dwp/2007/dcs/dcs-ar-06-07.pdf

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what work programme has been put in place for his Department's strategy team; and if he will make a statement. [232378]

Jonathan Shaw: The Strategy Unit carries out a range of projects to underpin the strategic objectives of the Department.

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229076]

Jonathan Shaw: A list of companies and organisations that provided temporary staff to the Department for the last three years 2005-06, 2006-07 and 2007-08 and the expenditure with each company and organisation during those years is provided in the following table. Information for the two previous years 2003-04 and 2004-05 is not available.

The expenditure provided for "temporary staff" includes both clerical and administrative personnel, and other interim, specialist and professional personnel including interim managers (this primarily covers the specialist areas of IT, finance, project and programme management, HR, procurement and communications). It is not possible to provide separate details of expenditure on the different categories of temporary and professional and technical staff.

DWF expenditure on "temporary staff"—2005-06 to 2007-08

£

Supplier	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Parity	5,835,909.74	7,407,152.90	5,455,978.00
Hays	3,845,970.36	7,309,387.40	4,585,773.86
LA International	1,951,194.77	3,714,763.77	4,073,159.71

DWF expenditure on "temporary staff"—2005-06 to 2007-08

£

Supplier	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
X Net Ltd.	2,195,562.45	3,361,228.16	2,803,781.70
Computer People	3,442,057.48	2,624,283.46	1,891,034.15
Xansa	3,132,669.48	2,931,074.54	1,431,417.61
Nesco	1,967,357.38	3,225,360.71	1,927,190.14
Methods Consulting Ltd.	—	4,214,785.12	2,272,514.72
Amtec Consulting	743,534.51	2,304,845.06	2,245,626.32
Michael Page International	1,447,584.06	2,027,746.26	1,514,802.25
Capgemini UK plc	—	1,923,327.28	1,522,575.55
Rullion Computer Personnel	553,566,42	1,377,848.84	896,668.95
Hedra	1,541,395.28	1,051,045.39	162,259.12
Elan	1,043,303.76	851,637.66	508,100.98
Badenoch and Clark	905,931.15	758,639.47	416,761.22
Manpower plc	1,494,999.96	365,753.47	84,532.67
Office Angels	642,921.02	610,019.71	310,066.59
Stopgap Ltd.	610,122.77	232,514.83	449,284.72
PPM Excellence Ltd.	—	465,607.87	643,151.75
Reed in Partnership	135,642.43	539,992.46	432,490.39
Servicetec Ltd.	468,451.01	245,214.58	378,44[illegible].21
Recruit Media Ltd.	267,210.38	264,316.21	236,759.49
Hudson Global Resources	406,056.48	154,820.92	120,905.05
Adecco UK Ltd.	254,760.19	218,955.86	30,755.96
Impact Executives	209,720.48	158,669.42	30,315.03
Acorn Recruitment Ltd.	153,757.90	242,842.57	—
Northern Recruitment Group	125,977.41	103,049.59	150,372.15
PricewaterhouseCoopers	—	342,884.21	29,046.01
Randstad Employment Bureau	165,970.59	154,749.84	—
Venn Group Ltd.	6,103.00	104,443.78	136,161.76
TFPL Ltd.	—	148,701.15	91,260.08
Brook Street plc	132,500.77	—	76,493.23
City Centre Recruitment	116,676.53	82,681.68	691.84
Purcon Ltd.	—	—	165,372.95
Mercer Human Resource Consulting	126,347.75	34,932.34	—
Pertemps	63,429.94	65,194.89	—
Penna	—	115,198.00	1,770.00
Jobwise Group plc	21,421.66	95,325.00	—
Hudson	—	97,641.08	1,205.20
Party Resources Ltd.	—	84,559.10	11,464.56
Capita Business Services Ltd.	—	40,887.00	50,049.31
Xchangeteam Ltd.	21,261.51	39,080.24	27,636.00
Hewitt Bacon and Woodrow Ltd.	56,302.27	13,080.47	16,131.21
Datasky	—	77,210.00	—
Venn Group Recruitment	75,636.14	—	—
Norman Broadbent Co.	75,172.98	—	—
Hudson York Farrell	71,441.24	—	—
Central Office of Information	—	58,054.91	—
Premiere Employment Group	23,104.11	21,570.10	1,192.67
SAS Software Ltd.	—	—	36,184.13
Job Channel Ltd.	25,990.00	—	—
At Work Recruitment	16,961.77	7,734.00	—
Bluestone	—	—	15,880.58
Fylde Office Service	14,342.87	—	—
Forrest Recruitment	12,153.25	—	—
Stimulation Ltd.	—	12,068.78	—
Serco Ltd.	—	—	10,650.49
Kelly Services	8,478.77	1,619.26	—
Forrest and Co.	9,787.23	—	—
Alexander Lloyd	9,400.00	—	—
Hay Group	—	4,507.00	1,280.00
Ellingham Employment Services	—	—	5,156.49
Venn Group Recruitment Solutions	4,935.00	—	—
Serco Solutions	4,206,00	—	—
TFPL Ltd. (EC1M)	—	3,956.00	—
GCS Recruitment Specialists	—	3,928.00	—
Speech to Text Reporting	3,806.60	—	—
Office Personnel	3,524.50	—	—
Law Absolute	—	—	2,825.43
Atos Origin	—	2,348.00	—
Bravo Solution	—	2,341.78	—
Westminster Accord	2,096.09	—	—
Rosemary Nichols Consulting	—	1,323.80	645.20
PA Consulting Services Ltd.	—	1,347.37	—
KMC International	1,045.65	—	—
Merrill Legal Solutions	—	—	1,036.34
Impact Recruitment	—	—	-300.00
Baileys Recruitment Agency	236.57	—	—
Aims Recruitment	—	120.00	—

Disability Living Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what training and guidance his Department gives on length of awards to staff making decisions on the award of disability living allowance and attendance allowance; and if he will make a statement; [230092]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to those staff taking decisions on awarding disability allowance on the duration of the award. [230278]

Jonathan Shaw: All claims for disability living allowance (DLA) and attendance allowance (AA) are decided by decision makers who are required to make decisions fairly and impartially based on the application of the law to the facts of the individual case.

Decision makers' training covers all available legal, medical and procedural guidance that pertains to periods of award, to enable them to determine what period of award is appropriate.

The Department provides decision makers with guidance on deciding the duration of awards within the Decision Makers Guide and the Decision Makers Procedural Guide. In addition, comprehensive up to date medical guidance has been developed and approved by medical experts in their field, for the majority of impairments that give rise to claims for DLA and AA. The guidance for each impairment includes interpretation of clinical information, definitions of clinical technology and guidance on the likely duration of the care and/or mobility needs arising from that impairment.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how often recipients of the mobility component of disability living allowance who list as a disability *(a)* AIDS, *(b)* arthritis, *(c)* back problems, *(d)* blindness, *(e)* chest disease, *(f)* deafness, *(g)* diabetes, *(h)* epilepsy, *(i)* frailty, *(j)* heart disease, *(k)* learning difficulties, *(l)* malignant disease, *(m)* mental health causes, *(n)* multiple sclerosis and *(o)* muscle, joint or bone problems have their awards reassessed. [230232]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Once entitlement to disability living allowance is established, the frequency of reassessment varies according to the individual circumstances of the case. For example, a claim may be reassessed if a customer reports a change in their circumstances, or information is received suggesting that there has been a change of circumstances since the original award of benefit was made. In addition, where a fixed period award is nearing its end point, the customer is invited to submit a new claim which is then assessed on the current evidence before a new decision is made on entitlement. Other claims may continue throughout the period of the award without being reassessed.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of applications for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance have been refused in each of the last three years. [232199]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The available information is in the following table:

Unsuccessful claims for disability living allowance and attendance allowance

			Percentage
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Disability living allowance	53	53	55
Attendance allowance	21	20	18

Notes:

1. Claims received: It is not possible for a claimant to make concurrent multiple claims. A customer can make more than one claim in a year. However, a new claim cannot be made until a decision on the previous claim has been made.
2. Success rates are the number of claims awarded as a percentage of the number of decisions in that year—not a percentage of the number of claims received.

Source:

Management Information Statistics. This information is generated by the disability living allowance/attendance allowance computer system for management purposes. It is not a National Statistic. Management information records and counts events. This means that the number of claims refused are not directly comparable to the number of claims received because a decision to refuse or accept a claim is not necessarily made in the same time period.

Disability Living Allowance: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Bexleyheath and Crayford receive the *(a)* lower and *(b)* higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance. [232285]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table:

Disability living allowance: Cases in payment by mobility component type, Bexleyheath and Crayford parliamentary constituency, February 2008

	Number
Highest rate	1,880
Lowest rate	1,050

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Some additional disclosure control has been applied.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. Figures are published on the DWP website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Employment Service: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many staff were employed by the *(a)* Employment Service and *(b)* Benefits Agency in each year for which records are available, broken down by region; [231474]

(2) what the average salary was of staff employed by the *(a)* Employment Service and *(b)* Benefits Agency in each year for which records are available, broken down by region. [231473]

Jonathan Shaw: The Benefits Agency was established on 10 April 1991. The Employment Service was established on 2 April 1990. Both ceased to exist after March 31 2002 when Jobcentre Plus and The Pension Service were launched.

Historical staffing statistics for each Agency can be found in Civil Service Statistics at:

www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/statistics.

A breakdown of the staffing statistics at regional level is not available.

Information on average salaries would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Employment: Low Incomes

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what guidelines have been issued to Jobcentre Plus employees in relation to making individuals better off in work calculations; which benefits or funding streams are *(a)* included and *(b)* excluded from the calculation; and if he will make a statement. [226839]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what guidelines have been issued to Jobcentre Plus employees in relation to making individuals better off in work calculations; which benefits or funding streams are (a) included and (b) excluded from the calculation; and if he will make a statement. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

An extensive range of learning is available to equip Personal Advisers to use the Better Off Calculator effectively. Personal Advisers attend a two-day technical event which instructs them on how to use the calculator. Up-to-date learning material and comprehensive technical guidance is also available. The Better Off Calculator has been designed to navigate the user through a series of pre-set screens and this helps to ensure that all relevant information is captured.

A Better Off Calculation takes into account the following benefits, credits and statutory payments:

Attendance Allowance
Bereavement Allowance
Carer's Allowance
Child Benefit
Child Special Allowance
Child Tax Credit
Constant Attendance Allowance
Council Tax Benefit
Disability Living Allowance
Exceptionally Severe Disablement Allowance
Employment and Support Allowance
Guardian's Allowance
Housing Benefit
Incapacity Benefit
Income Support
Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit
Jobseeker's Allowance
Maternity Allowance
Pension Credit
Second Adult Rebate
Severe Disablement Allowance
State Pension
Statutory Adoption Pay
Statutory Maternity Pay
Statutory Paternity Pay
Statutory Sick Pay
War Disablement Pension
War Widow's Pension
Widowed Parents Allowance
Working Tax Credit

It also takes in to consideration the following income types:

Child Maintenance payments
Savings
Capital
Personal/Occupational Pension
Other Income
Benefits in payment
Tax Credits (including 50+ additional WTC) in payment
Work details—Income/expenses
Income from Borders
Income from current/previous tax year-
Taxable Social Security Benefit
Employee earnings
Benefits in kind
Self employed earnings
Other earnings

All other incomes are not taken in to consideration.

At present, there are some limitations to the calculations the Better Off Calculator can perform, especially where there are complex rules or when discretion has to be applied; for example, with self-employment cases, students or persons from abroad when a calculation has to be done manually. Jobcentre Plus updates the Better Off Calculator twice each year to capture legislative changes, new initiatives and to implement further improvements.

Housing Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the *(a)* total and *(b)* average amount paid to households receiving local housing allowance above the five bed rate was in the most recent month for which figures are available, broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [230283]

(2) how many households are in receipt of local housing allowance above the five bed rate *(a)* nationally and *(b)* broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [230284]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on vulnerable people of direct payments of housing benefit. [232814]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Two of the intended effects of the local housing allowance are to promote financial independence and personal responsibility. Therefore payments are normally made directly to tenants so they have personal responsibility for paying their rent. However, we recognise that there will always be a small proportion of tenants who will struggle with this, so there are circumstances in which the local authority has the power to pay benefit direct to the landlord.

These are if the local authority either considers that the tenant is likely to have difficulty in relation to the management of their own affairs—for example, the tenant is known to have a learning disorder or a drug/alcohol problem that would mean they are likely to have difficulty handling a budget—or considers it improbable that the tenant will pay their rent; for example, the local authority is aware that the tenant has consistently failed to pay the rent on past occasions without good reason.

Additionally, in housing benefit generally, payment direct to the landlord is a statutory requirement if a tenant has built up rent arrears of eight weeks or more, or is having deductions from their income support or jobseeker's allowance to pay off rent arrears. If this occurs, the local authority has the discretion to continue paying direct to the landlord when the level of arrears drops to below eight weeks.

We plan to review the LHA, which was rolled out nationally from April 2008, during the first two years of operation.

Incapacity Benefit

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people on incapacity benefit who are capable of entering employment. [225425]

Jonathan Shaw: Incapacity benefit is a benefit for people whom, due to ill health or disability, it would be unreasonable to require to work. People who are able to work can claim jobseeker's allowance.

However, with help and support, many people on incapacity benefits are able to move into work. Through

Pathways to Work, we support people on incapacity benefits to prepare to return to work. Pathways to Work has helped over 94,000 claimants into work since October 2003.

Jobcentre Plus

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will make a statement on his plans for the reorganisation of Jobcentre Plus offices and processing centres in the South East of England; [228031]

(2) if he will make a statement on the future of the Jobcentre Plus office at Sunley House, Aylesbury. [228037]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking if he will make a statement on his plans for the reorganisation of Jobcentre Plus offices and processing centres in the South East of England; and if he will make a statement on the future of the Jobcentre Plus office at Sunley House, Aylesbury. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Since 2002 Jobcentre Plus has completed a national modernisation programme to improve levels of service to all our customers through new style Jobcentres, Contact Centres, Benefit Delivery Centres and the Internet. The roll out of Jobcentre Plus in the South East was completed with the opening of our new Portsmouth Jobcentre Plus office on 24 September 2008. The Jobcentre Plus network in the South East currently consists of 73 Jobcentres and 8 Benefit Delivery Centres.

Our customers expect to access our services like any other organisation, as easily, directly and flexibly as possible. We are, therefore, offering far more of our services, both to employers and individual customers, through our Contact Centre network and the Internet. Customers making a benefit claim or enquiry can call a 0800 number to provide claim details by phone, this is free to landline users, with a call back facility available for those using mobile phones. This reduces the need to call into a Jobcentre and increasingly our offices are used for booked appointments only. In addition, we are providing a more individual service for our most disadvantaged customers, delivered in partnership with the public, private and voluntary sectors.

Social Fund services to most of the region are provided by the Jobcentre Plus Benefit Delivery centre in Bowback House, Milton Keynes. The former Social Security Office Sunley House in Aylesbury has been used for some Social Fund work on a temporary basis until sufficient space became available in Milton Keynes.

We have now acquired sufficient space in Bowback House, Milton Keynes to house the Sunley House Social Fund operations. The current planning assumption is that Social Fund work will migrate to Milton Keynes Benefit Delivery Centre by 31 March 2009. This will allow Jobcentre Plus to close Sunley House and realise a saving to its estate costs of approximately £420,000 in 2009/10.

All Social Fund staff in Sunley House have been given the opportunity to redeploy to Milton Keynes Benefit Delivery Centre. A number of staff have already done so. Staff will also be able to apply for other Department for Work and Pensions vacancies at Aylesbury and Chesham Jobcentres as well as vacancies within HMRC in the Aylesbury area.

Services to Jobcentre Plus customers in Aylesbury will not be affected by the closure of Sunley House as Social Fund payments to Aylesbury customers will be made from the Jobcentre in Heron House which is just a few hundred yards away.

I hope you find this information helpful. I have asked Paul Williams (Customer Services Director for the South East) to contact you to arrange a suitable time to discuss your concerns either by phone or face to face, whichever is more convenient for you. However, if you would like to contact Paul directly in the meantime his number is: 01483 446065.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many jobcentres have closed in each month since 1 January 2007; how many are scheduled for closure in the next year; and if he will make a statement. [228898]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking how many Jobcentres have closed in each month since 1st January 2007, and how many are scheduled for closure in the next year. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The following table provides a month by month breakdown of the 81 Jobcentre Plus office closures between 1 January 2007 and October 2008.

Jobcentre Plus office closures broken down by month

	Closures
January 2007	5
February 2007	2
March 2007	5
April 2007	5
May 2007	2
June 2007	3
July 2007	9
August 2007	2
September 2007	1
October 2007	1
November 2007	1
December 2007	4
January 2008	5
February 2008	10
March 2008	12
April 2008	3
May 2008	0
June 2008	1
July 2008	1
August 2008	7
September 2008	1
October 2008	1

Three Jobcentres which are currently open to the public are scheduled for closure this year. They are all within Jobcentre Plus London Region: Brixton Hill, Feltham and Orpington. All three have been subject to a rigorous consultation process. Other than these, no decisions have yet been taken on further closures over the next 12 months.

Jobcentre Plus: Lost Property

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what records Jobcentre Plus has of the number of items of mail it has sent through the Royal Mail signed for services which have been *(a)* lost and *(b)* misplaced in the last 12 months. [231140]

Mr. McNulty: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) use the Recorded Delivery and Special Delivery service, which are signed for postal services provided by Royal Mail. DWP business users of these services are responsible for reporting any misplaced or lost items directly to Royal Mail and records of lost or misplaced items are therefore not held centrally within DWP or centrally within Jobcentre Plus. This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Mr. Alan Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 19-20, on job centres, what his definition is of front line staff; and how many *(a)* full-time equivalent staff and *(b)* front line full-time equivalent staff were employed in each job centre in Argyll and Bute in each year since 2004. [229892]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question, pursuant to the Answer of 20th October, Official Report, columns 19-20, on jobcentres, what his definition is of front line staff; and how many (a) full-time equivalent staff and (b) front line full-time equivalent staff were employed in each jobcentre in Argyll and Bute in each year since 2004.

The number of frontline full time equivalent staff employed in the following Jobcentres in Argyll and Bute is as follows. All staff working in a Jobcentre are regarded as frontline staff.

	March each year				
Office	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Campbeltown	23.14	18.1	14.56	10.95	10.95
Dunoon	14.35	11.54	14.54	9.54	9.54
Helensburgh	13.77	9.77	8.77	9.77	7.77
Oban	29.33	28.09	18.26	17.99	15.99
Rothesay	11.96	10.42	9.42	7.41	6.41

Note:
Headcount figures are quoted in full-time equivalents using the Office for National Statistics criteria for counting headcount and details the position at March in each year.
Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal

It should be noted that the activities carried out in Jobcentres in 2008 are not the same as those carried out in 2004 as a result of the transfer of processing activities to Benefit Delivery Centres. For this reason it could be misleading to compare the staffing levels year on year.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* Jobcentre Plus staff and *(b)* customer-facing Jobcentre Plus staff there are planned to be (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [230419]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many (a) Jobcentre Plus staff and (b) customer facing Jobcentre Plus staff there were (i) in total, (ii) in each region and (iii) in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the next 3 years; and if he will make a statement. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The Department's Comprehensive Spending Review (CSR) 2007 settlement provides for the following staffing numbers in Jobcentre Plus:

March each year	*Number*
2009	65,433
2010	61,985
2011	58,529

We do not have a future breakdown of this staffing by the categories you request.

Our plans are under active review in the light of the current economic situation. We are already planning for Jobcentre Plus to have 2,000 more staff than the original assumption to enable us to respond to increasing numbers of customers. We do not yet have the detailed plans which describe the revised numbers for this year below a national level.

Maternity Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many maternity allowance claims remained unprocessed at the end of each quarter in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [230290]

(2) how many and what proportion of maternity allowance claims were processed within *(a)* seven, *(b)* 14, *(c)* 21, *(d)* 28, *(e)* 35, *(f)* 49 and *(g)* 63 days in each quarter of the last three years; and if he will make a statement; [230291]

(3) how many staff have been working directly on the processing of maternity allowance claims in each quarter of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [230292]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Lesley Strathie:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to reply to your questions on the processing of Maternity Allowance applications. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The target for clearing Maternity Allowance claims is 20 days and we expect to clear 4,800 claims within this timescale. Therefore, our normal "head of work", which is the amount of claims we expect to have outstanding at any one time, is 4,800 claims. Statistical information regarding Maternity Allowance claims is only available from April 2006. We have provided quarterly data from April 2006 to September 2008.

Quarter ending	*Number of maternity allowance claims outstanding*
June 2006	4,650
September 2006	3,833
December 2006	4,287
March 2007	5,933
June 2007	6,616
September 2007	6,823
December 2007	5,973
March 2008	6,326
June 2008	10,937
September 2008	4,513

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Management Information Portal

Clearance times for Maternity Allowance increased slightly this year over the summer months resulting in a backlog of 7,000 cases awaiting action. This was as a result of an increase in births leading to an increase in Maternity Allowance applications by a fifth. This increase also coincided with the centralisation of the administration of Maternity Allowance claims between December 2007 and August 2008 into four Benefit Delivery Centres covering the whole country and a temporary dip in productivity associated with retraining existing members of staff. The backlog has now been cleared and we have returned to our normal "head of work".

Information relating to the proportion of Maternity Allowance claims processed within 7, 14, 21, 28, 35, 49 and 63 days is not held.

Statistical information regarding details of staff working on Maternity Allowance claims is only available from April 2006. We have provided quarterly data from April 2006 to June 2008. Data for the second quarter of 2008 is not yet available, however, we have provided the average figure incorporating August 2008 data.

The figures quoted relate to staff working on Maternity Allowance new claims and maintenance activities and also include any general support duties and related Maternity Allowance work, including acting as telephone point of contact for all enquiries relating to claims and maintenance. It should be noted however, that before benefit centralisation many staff working on other benefits often helped on Maternity Allowance and this work would not have been recorded on the system. Therefore figures are not comparable year on year.

Maternity allowance—average full-time equivalent staff per quarter

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Quarter 1	87.09	80.60	126.19
Quarter 2	91.54	91.62	n/a
Quarter 3	82.60	107.85	n/a
Quarter 4	76.77	126.80	n/a
Yearly Average	84.50	101.72	130.66

Source:
Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management Portal

Mediation

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what progress has been made on his Department's mediation with a counsellor initiative; and if he will make a statement. [231818]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Department has successfully been running a mediation pilot for employees in selected parts of Jobcentre Plus and Pension, Disability and Carers Service since 9 June 2008. The pilot offers mediation as a voluntary alternative to the formal grievance procedures. The pilot is due to finish on 9 January 2009 and it will then be evaluated. Following this a decision will be taken about whether to offer mediation on a permanent basis.

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average response time was for new pensions credit applications in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK in each of the last 12 months. [231844]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information is not available at the level requested.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of pension credit applications received by the Pension Service in the last 12 months have been repeat applications. [231845]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Agency does not have any information on the volume of repeat applications.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pension credit applications the Pension Service received in each of the last 12 months. [231847]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension Service has received a total of 280,893 applications for pension credit in the last 12 months. The following table shows the total number of applications received for each of the last 12 months.

	PC applications received
October 2007	24,121
November 2007	24,319
December 2007	17,123
January 2008	25,619
February 2008	23,460
March 2008	20,791
April 2008	24,265
May 2008	21,946
June 2008	23,251
July 2008	27,903
August 2008	22,869
September 2008	25,226
12 month total	280,893

Pensioners: Bus Services

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners claimed free bus travel in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK in each year since its inception. [231417]

Paul Clark: I have been asked to reply.

Concessionary travel is administered at a local level therefore the Government do not hold historic pass holder data. However, due to the recent reissue of passes for the introduction of the England-wide concession, the Government collected data concerning numbers of pass holders from each travel concession authority.

The totals for Jarrow and the metropolitan borough of South Tyneside are both included in the figures for Nexus, the Tyne and Wear Passenger Transport Executive. In October 2007 Nexus reported a total of 219,073 elderly and disabled pass holders. The total for the North East region was 460,094 and for England as a whole 7,491,416.

Post Office Card Account

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the accuracy of information provided on the telephone by Pensions Service staff about the future of the Post Office card account; and if he will make a statement. [232314]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* We continually monitor our communications and issue appropriate reminders and updates to staff.

Customers are being provided with information about the Post Office card account and around 12,500 new card accounts are being opened every month.

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the future of the Post Office card account. [232678]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I and my ministerial colleagues have received a number of letters on the future of the Post Office card account. We have also answered questions in the House and responded to points raised during debates.

Post Office Card Account: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have a Post Office card account. [233139]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The answer is not available in the precise format requested.

The following table shows the number of benefit and pension accounts paid into a Post Office card account in *(a)* the West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area.

Payment type: Post Office card account

	Number
West Chelmsford constituency	3,700
Chelmsford local authority area	5,360

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and refer to payment accounts live and in payment as at 12 April 2008. Claimants with more than one account will be counted for each account.

2. Child benefit is administered by HM Revenue and Customs and War Pensions are administered by MOD. These benefits have been excluded.

Source:

DWP, Information Directorate

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time for *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* pension credit applications was (i) in each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and (ii) in total in each quarter of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [230481]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows:

(a) Disability living allowance

Please see the following table giving the DLA New Claim (Normal Rules) year to date (YTD) average actual clearance times (AACT) in each of the new claim business units for DLA for each quarter of the last five years and the equivalent DLA national figure.

	2003-04				*2004-05*			
YTD DLA NR Claims AACT	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Edinburgh	36.4	36.6	36.7	37.9	40.6	39.3	39.1	38.0
Newcastle	32.4	32.3	31.9	32.1	35.3	35.5	35.0	34.7
Leeds	41.0	40.4	39.2	37.5	34.2	34.2	32.7	32.3
Manchester	33.5	34.4	35.5	35.8	38.1	36.3	35.4	34.2
Bootle	35.3	36.4	37.2	37.5	37.0	37.7	36.1	34.7
Midlands	34.5	35.8	35.6	35.0	33.5	33.6	32.9	32.4
Bristol	37.3	40.6	40.5	39.2	38.3	38.3	36.0	34.5
Wales	36.5	40.6	40.1	39.0	35.7	37.3	36.7	35.4
Wembley	41.0	42.3	43.0	43.0	35.1	35.6	35.8	36.0
Sutton	40.3	40.8	40.6	40.3	36.3	36.5	36.1	36.3
Glasgow	39.1	39.3	38.4	37.9	35.8	36.0	33.9	32.6
DCPU5 NCU	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Bootle NE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wales NE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
DCPU 1 NCU	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
National	38.8	39.9	40.0	39.7	37.5	37.7	36.7	36.2

	2005-06				2006-07			
YTD DLA NR Claims AACT	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Edinburgh	38.0	39.3	38.5	37.9	36.9	37.7	37.5	36.7
Newcastle	35.8	37.7	37.9	38.0	38.2	40.1	40.3	—
Leeds	30.9	31.2	30.7	30.9	33.6	35.4	35.2	35.2
Manchester	29.2	29.3	29.7	29.7	29.4	32.3	35.0	35.7
Bootle	32.8	32.7	32.4	31.6	32.9	34.4	35.5	35.8
Midlands	29.9	31.3	31.7	31.7	32.0	32.1	33.2	34.2
Bristol	31.5	33.5	34.6	34.4	43.2	42.8	43.7	44.4
Wales	31.9	33.7	34.7	35.0	34.9	35.4	37.1	37.8
Wembley	33.2	33.4	33.7	34.6	38.6	38.7	39.5	39.7
Sutton	40.4	40.6	40.7	40.9	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	31.9	35.1	36.4	36.7	31.7	33.5	34.4	33.8
DCPU 5 NCU	20.3	25.9	29.8	30.6	29.6	29.6	30.3	30.0
Bootle NE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.8
Wales NE	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	34.1
DCPU 1 NCU	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
National	33.5	34.3	34.5	34.5	35.0	35.8	36.7	36.8

	2007-08				2008-09			
YTDDLA NR Claims AACT	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Edinburgh	34.0	35.7	37.3	36.6	—	—	—	—
Newcastle	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Leeds	34.2	33.0	31.6	30.7	25.8	25.1	—	—
Manchester	35.2	34.5	34.2	32.9	28.4	27.8	—	—
Bootle	36.5	36.8	37.5	35.5	29.2	29.9	—	—
Midlands	37.5	38.3	37.2	35.8	29.0	29.7	—	—
Bristol	46.6	44.5	43.5	40.5	29.2	29.0	—	—
Wales	37.6	37.0	36.1	34.7	29.2	30.8	—	—
Wembley	42.5	43.0	43.0	41.1	29.5	30.3	—	—
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Glasgow	33.2	35.7	35.1	34.2	30.8	31.8	—	—
DCPU 5 NCU	27.6	31.7	33.6	32.6	31.7	32.9	—	—
Bootle NE	37.8	37.9	37.9	37.0	32.3	32.4	—	—
Wales NE	36.6	36.4	35.7	34.1	29.3	31.4	—	—
DCPU 1 NCU	—	—	—	—	12.4	16.9	—	—
National	36.9	37.7	37.5	36.0	29.5	29.8	—	—

Notes:

DLA AACT target: 2003-04 = 42 days, 2004-08 = 39 days and 2008-09 = 38 days. When Sutton DBC was closed the DLA new claims work was transferred to DCPU 5 New Claims Unit. When Newcastle DBC was closed the DLA new claims work was transferred to the Bootle and Wales offices (Bootle North East and Wales North East). When Edinburgh DBC was closed down the DLA new claims work was transferred to DCPU 1 New Claims Unit.

2. The table above shows that for the majority of the units the YTD target for DLA New Claims was met, this despite the target being reduced from 42 days in 2003-04 to 38 days for this year. Over this period all units have seen a steady reduction in their YTD performance ranging from a decrease of 15.9 days at Leeds DBC to 4.8 days at Midlands DBC, from the first quarter of 2003-04 to the second quarter of 2008-09. Also throughout this period the national YTD performance was below target for all of the quarters and reduced from 38.8 days in the first quarter of 2003-04 to 29.8 days in the second quarter of 2008-09, a decrease of nine days.

Source:

RDA 80123 Monthly Reports.

(b) Pension credit

Please see the follo[illegible]ble giving the pension credit new claim year [illegible]e (YTD) average actual clearance times (AACT) in each of the current Pension Centres for each quarter of the last five years and the equivalent pension credit national figure.

	2003-04				2004-05			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Burnley	9.4	17.2	23.8	19.8	9.7	10.7	9.3	7.0
Cwmbran	2.8	7.4	4.5	3.6	4.1	4.6	6.3	5.4
Dundee	14.5	10.3	10.7	7.1	6.8	7.7	12.5	12.2
Leicester	8.6	11.3	13.4	8.6	9.7	12.0	17.3	13.2
London	7.9	8.8	13.5	12.6	10.0	14.7	15.1	12.2
Motherwell	17.1	17.6	16.5	11.9	8.8	9.9	15.0	14.4
Seaham	6.4	6.3	9.2	6.5	6.4	8.2	12.1	8.1
Stockport	16.8	18.6	14.8	11.6	11.5	11.1	11.6	10.7
Swansea	12.1	13.8	12.5	9.4	10.2	10.7	11.7	10.0

	2003-04				2004-05			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Warrington	13.4	12.1	9.8	7.6	7.0	8.9	15.3	9.7
National	9.7	11.4	14.3	11.1	9.2	10.9	12.3	10.2

	2005-06				2006-07			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Burnley	8.0	10.9	10.0	9.9	11.0	6.4	8.0	15.1
Cwmbran	6.5	7.5	7.1	6.4	7.6	6.5	9.7	12.9
Dundee	8.6	8.3	10.0	7.2	8.6	9.5	11.9	14.2
Leicester	11.0	13.7	12.0	12.8	10.5	6.7	10.9	14.9
London	11.1	9.2	8.8	10.5	12.8	12.2	17.7	20.4
Motherwell	12.0	10.3	7.2	6.5	8.4	12.0	12.0	16.6
Seaham	7.7	9.7	8.7	11.0	9.5	10.4	12.7	15.6
Stockport	8.4	8.8	8.3	8.5	11.5	11.6	17.8	23.6
Swansea	9.4	9.2	9.3	9.5	12.8	9.8	15.1	14.4
Warrington	7.0	7.4	10.0	12.1	9.0	9.9	12.4	16.6
National	8.8	8.5	8.5	9.1	10.1	9.7	12.7	15.8

	2007-08				2008-09			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Burnley	15.4	15.9	12.4	11.0	11.5	10.5	—	—
Cwmbran	9.9	9.5	8.4	9.6	9.3	9.1	—	—
Dundee	14.3	14.2	11.8	11.4	11.9	12.0	—	—
Leicester	19.0	24.2	28.1	15.1	16.1	19.3	—	—
London	17.8	13.8	11.5	13.6	12.5	12.4	—	—
Motherwell	15.3	16.7	11.9	14.2	15.4	16.0	—	—
Seaham	15.7	15.0	16.2	16.7	11.6	11.7	—	—
Stockport	19.2	24.0	24.2	23.8	18.5	19.8	—	—
Swansea	12.4	13.4	16.2	17.0	17.3	17.3	—	—
Warrington	15.8	18.8	15.8	13.1	16.4	18.7	—	—
National	15.2	16.7	15.8	14.9	14.3	14.9	—	—

Notes:
Pension Credit AACT target: 2003-07 = 10 days, 2007-09 = 15 days. As part of the Transformation Programme, the ten Pension Centres shown above now deal with all pension credit applications. In 2003, there were 26 pension centres and there has been a gradual reduction to present state. The target of 10 days was eased to 15 days to allow the new transformation processes to be embedded within the organisation. Currently, at a national level the 15-day target is being achieved.
Source:
Management Information System Programme.

The pension centres deal with the following geographic areas:

	Geographic area
Burnley	Norfolk, Cambs, Herts, Essex, Cumbria, Beds, Suffolk and North Lancs
Cwmbran	Hants, Berks, Oxon, Bucks, IOW, Gloucs and Wilts
Dundee	East and North Scotland, Highlands, North and South Yorkshire and East Riding
Leicester	Leics, Northants, Notts and Lincs
London	London and Surrey
Motherwell	Ayrshire, North and South Lanarkshire, Glasgow, West Scotland, Kent, East and West Sussex
Seaham	North East, Bradford and Keighley
Stockport	Worcs, Warwicks, Shropshire, Staffs, Birmingham, Herefords and Derbys
Swansea	Wales and South West
Warrington	Lancs, Merseyside and Manchester

Social Security Benefits Agency: Expenditure

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the cost to the public purse of the Benefits Agency was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08. [228622]

Mr. McNulty: The Benefits Agency ceased to exist in 2002.

Information concerning the cost to the public purse of the Department for Work and Pensions is available in its 2008 Departmental Report (Cm 7401), copies of which are in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were prosecuted for crimes relating to benefit fraud in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area in each of the last five years. [232774]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Social Security Benefits: Industrial Disputes

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what contingency plans he is considering to ensure the efficient and effective operation of benefit payments for the duration of planned industrial action by civil service unions; [230005]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on his Department's published performance targets of planned industrial action by civil service unions; and if he will make a statement; [230006]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effect on pension and benefit recipients of planned industrial action by civil service unions; [230007]

(4) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department's budget of planned industrial action by civil service unions; and what adjustments will be necessary to ensure that his Department's budgets balance. [230008]

Mr. McNulty: Our contingency plans, which are flexible and proven, include prioritising our resources to ensure that our top priority—to make payments to our customers—is maintained throughout any strike action by staff. We will also maintain access to our services by telephone and wherever possible face to face.

Ninety-eight per cent. of DWP customers receive automated payments. Customers, including pensioners, job seekers, benefit claimants and those who rely on child maintenance payments will continue to receive the payments on which they depend.

The flexible nature of our business delivery and our business continuity planning will enable us to minimise the impact of industrial action on published performance targets.

Short-term periods of industrial action do not have any significant impact on the Department's budget.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received late payment of their state pension during the last 12 months in *(a)* Eastbourne constituency, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK. [229998]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received a late payment of their deferred state pension in each of the last 12 months. [231852]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

State Retirement Pensions: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received late payment of their state pension in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in the last 12 months. [231724]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

State Retirement Pensions: Overseas Residence

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many state pension recipients live outside the UK. [231841]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest estimate of the number of UK state pensions paid to pensioners living outside the UK is approximately 1,090,000.

Source:

Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, 100 per cent data, February 2008

Vocational Training: South Yorkshire

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of employment training funding provided to training providers in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley was (i) spent on training and (ii) retained as cash, profits of charges by the training provider over the last five years. [231293]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

This is primarily a matter for the individual providers. The Department awards contracts which stipulate a given level and quality of provision at an agreed price which represents value for money and providers are expected to deliver against the terms of those contracts.

Mr. Illsley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much has been allocated, and to which organisations, by the Government on employment training in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley in each of the last five years; [231294]

(2) which training providers have provided services paid for by employment training funding in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley in each of the last five years; [231295]

(3) which training providers received employment training funding in *(a)* South Yorkshire, *(b)* Rotherham and *(c)* Barnsley in the last five years. [231316]

Mr. McNulty: The following table provides details of the providers, in each of the locations requested, that have received employment training funding from the Department in the last five years and the estimated contract values for the providers in the South Yorkshire district. Some of the values represent a number of different contracts held by individual providers.

The Department does not hold central records of employment training funding allocated to individual towns and could provide this information only at disproportionate cost.

South Yorkshire		*Rotherham*	*Barnsley*
Providers	*Contract(s) value (£)*	*Providers*	*Providers*
Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	1,276,800	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council	Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council
Personnel Evaluation Consultants Ltd.	3,975,728	Personnel Evaluation Consultants Ltd.	Personnel Evaluation Consultants Ltd.
Phoenix Enterprises	774,451	Phoenix Enterprises	

South Yorkshire		*Rotherham*	*Barnsley*
Providers	*Contract(s) value (£)*	*Providers*	*Providers*
SOVA (Supporting others through volunteer action)	1,000,923	SOVA	SOVA
The Source at Meadowhall	909,504	The Source at Meadowhall	—
Action for Employment	27,384,210	—	—
BTCV Enterprises	1,060,980	—	—
Business Employment Services Training Ltd. (BEST Ltd.)	8,591,499	—	—
Community Training Services	1,371,142	—	—
Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council	710,400	—	—
Into Business Scheme	349,059	—	—
Morthyng Ltd.	616,210	—	—
NACRO	823,078	—	—
Nationwide Ethnic Transport Training Ltd. (NETT Ltd.)	1,166,698	—	—
Reed in Partnership	4,729,487	—	—
Sheffield City Council	2,210,968	—	—
Sheffield Futures	767,365	—	—
Work Fit	204,000	—	—
Lifetime Careers	1,192,032	—	—

Winter Fuel Payments

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2402W, on winter fuel payments, what estimate he has made of the value of the winter fuel payment in 2008-09 for a 60 to 79 year-old, expressed as a percentage of the average annual energy and gas bill. [232964]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Actual expenditure data on the average annual energy and gas bill for 2008-09 are not available. However, based on fuel price changes to September 2008 it is estimated that the winter fuel payment of £200 plus the additional payment of £50 for 2008-09 would make up around 20 per cent. of the average annual energy and gas bill.

Notes:

1. Household energy expenditure on energy is taken from the 2006 Family Spending Survey for 65-74 year olds, uprated by changes in the price of fuel and light to September 2008

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 5 per cent.

Winter Fuel Payments: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much he expects to pay to pensioner households in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in winter fuel payments in 2008-09; [231802]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency which will receive the (i) £250 and (ii) £400 winter fuel payment in 2008-09. [231803]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Expenditure in 2006-07 on winter fuel payments in *(a)* the London borough of Hillingdon was £7.3 million and in *(b)* the Uxbridge constituency was £2.4 million. Forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced below national level.

It is not possible to derive a forecast for 2008-09 using 2006-07 outturn data because the benefit rates for winter fuel payments have changed for 2008-09 and because adequate caseload data are not available.

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

3. Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available. The number of households that received the £200 and £300 winter fuel payment in winter 2006-07 are shown in the following table. We expect similar numbers to receive the £250 and £400 respectively in winter 2008-09.

Number of households	£
London borough of Hillingdon	
24,050	200
7,840	300
Uxbridge constituency	
7,750	200
2,500	300

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.

2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.

3. Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data

Working Tax Credit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of all eligible recipients of working tax credit are currently in receipt of the childcare element. [232165]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

However, the estimated number of families benefiting from the child care element of working tax credit, at April 2008, is provided in Table 4.4 of the HMRC publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. April 2008". This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-quarterly-stats.htm

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Ministerial Policy Advisers: Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House if she will put in place arrangements for questions for written answer to be tabled to Government envoys. [232379]

Chris Bryant: No, as Ministers should remain accountable for policies, decisions and actions of their Departments and agencies.

Regional Ministers: Written Questions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Leader of the House if she will put in place arrangements for questions for written answer to be tabled to regional ministers. [232381]

Chris Bryant: Questions for written answer which relate to regional matters may be tabled to the relevant Secretary of State.

The House will shortly have the opportunity to consider motions establishing regional Select Committees and regional Grand Committees, including provision for ministers to answer questions in the Grand Committees.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made on the implementation of the action plan on peace, reconciliation and justice in Afghanistan; and what assistance the UK has given to civil society organisations in the country in support of that implementation since 2002. [226078]

Bill Rammell: The UK has given the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) £500,000 to support its three-year action plan for 2006-2008, which includes the implementation of the peace, reconciliation and justice action plan. Our support helps the AIHRC to collect and record evidence of past human rights abuses, raise awareness about transitional justice and lobby the Afghan Government for action. In 2007, the AIHRC's Transitional Justice Unit documented 86 mass graves related to past human rights abuses; such information will contribute to any future progress on transitional justice.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plan to take to help address corruption in public life in Afghanistan. [229850]

Bill Rammell: We continue to press President Karzai to take action against corrupt public officials and look forward to working with the new Minister of the Interior, Hanif Atmar, to tackle corruption in the Rule of Law sector, in particular policing. The Department for International Development has supported work to identify and address the areas of the Government of Afghanistan that are most vulnerable to corruption.

The Department for International Development is working closely with the World Bank to put in place more robust public financial management systems across the Government, and is engaged with other international partners to identify support requirements for the Government's new anti-corruption body. In addition, the UK is providing anti-corruption specialists to strengthen Afghan law enforcement and justice institutions with a focus on the prosecution of counter-narcotics and corruption-related cases.

Bangladesh: Politics and Government

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the caretaker Government of Bangladesh about lifting the state of emergency before the commencement of the campaign period for the elections in December. [231049]

Bill Rammell: When my noble Friend, the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, visited Bangladesh in October, he reiterated to the caretaker Government, the main political parties, civil society and the media the UK's support for fair and credible elections. He made clear that the lifting of the state of emergency would be a major step towards this goal.

Belarus: Children

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to make representations to the Belarus authorities to allow the resumption of exchange programmes of Belarus children from the Chernobyl area. [230855]

Caroline Flint: Our ambassador to Belarus has been in close contact with the authorities in Minsk in recent weeks, raising our concerns about their decision to suspend these programmes. UK arrangements have worked well, with a high standard of care and safe return of the children to their guardians. We hope to find an amicable solution of the issue to allow the resumption of these programmes.

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the UK Government support the presumption of the exchange programmes of Belarus children from the area north of Chernobyl; and if he will make a statement. [231287]

Caroline Flint: The Government fully support the resumption of charitable programmes bringing children from Chernobyl affected areas to western countries for short respite holidays. The British ambassador to Belarus has been in close contact with the authorities in Minsk, raising our concerns following their recent suspension of the programme. UK arrangements worked well, with a high standard of care and safe return of the children to their guardians. We hope to be able to find an amicable resolution of the issue to allow these visits to resume quickly.

Chernobyl: Children

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if his Department will take steps to facilitate arrangements for children from Chernobyl to be able to travel to the UK in accordance with the motion passed at the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe on 13 October 2008. [231290]

Caroline Flint: The Government support the motion of the Council of Europe calling on the Belarusian authorities to end the travel ban for children who participate in various assistance programmes. The British ambassador to Belarus has been in close contact with the authorities in Minsk, raising our concerns. UK arrangements have worked well, with a high standard of care and safe return of the children to their guardians. We hope to find an amicable resolution of the issue to allow the resumption of these programmes.

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Elections

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on elections in the Hong Kong special administrative region. [231761]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular contact with his Chinese counterpart to discuss a whole range of issues, including Hong Kong. He pays close attention to Hong Kong, and comments on developments in the Six-Monthly Report. A particular focus is on Hong Kong's progress towards universal suffrage. On 29 December 2007 the Foreign Secretary released the following comments on Hong Kong's elections:

> "Today's announcement by the National People's Congress that there will not be universal suffrage in the 2012 Hong Kong elections will be a disappointment for all those who want to see Hong Kong move to full democracy as soon as possible."
>
> "As the Hong Kong SAR Government has itself recognised, this includes the majority of Hong Kong's own people who have clearly said that they wish to elect the Chief Executive by universal suffrage in 2012."
>
> "I remain of the view that both China and Hong Kong's interests will be best served by allowing Hong Kong to move to full democracy as soon as possible. The National People's Congress' statement clearly points towards universal suffrage for the Chief Executive election in 2017 and the legislative council thereafter. I hope that all parties concerned can engage in meaningful dialogue to allow this, and that the Hong Kong authorities will now put forward constructive proposals making progress in 2012 to achieve this goal."

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: Tourism

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many UK citizens visited the Hong Kong special administrative region in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2006. [231759]

Bill Rammell: According to figures provided by the Hong Kong Immigration Department, 628,332 UK citizens visited Hong Kong in 2007 and 546,026 visited in 2006.

India: Christianity

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what assessment he has made of the current security situation for Christians in the state of Orissa, India; [230861]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Indian Government and the Indian Ambassador to the Court of St. James on reports of extreme violence towards Christians in India in recent months; [230863]

(3) what reports he has received of the security situation for Christians in the state of Karnataka, India; [230865]

(4) what steps the Government are taking to promote the safety of Christians in India from violence, and fear of violence; [230866]

(5) what reports he has received of the security situation for Christians in the state of Madhya Pradesh, India. [230867]

Bill Rammell: We have received reports of around 40 deaths, 3,000 homes burnt and 27,000 people homeless following the recent violence against Christians in Orissa. Christian missionaries and church buildings have also been attacked in Karnataka, and there have been at least 35 major incidents against the Christian community in Madhya Pradesh this year, too. We believe that there are a variety of factors behind the recent violence in Orissa. The British high commission in New Delhi continues to monitor the situation closely.

We welcome the Indian Prime Minister's unequivocal statements condemning the attacks, most recently on 13 October. We have expressed our concerns directly with the Indian Government and their representatives. On 1 October, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, raised the matter with the Indian high commissioner in London. On 17 October, he also discussed our concerns with Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of External Affairs, and Mohammed Quereshi, Chairman of the Minorities Commission in New Delhi. The issue of religious freedom is due to be raised at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi later this year.

India: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of religious violence in Orissa state, India; what assessment he has made of its effect on the stability of India; and if he will make a statement. [229361]

Bill Rammell: We have received reports of around 40 deaths, 3,000 homes burnt and 27,000 people homeless following the recent violence against Christians in Orissa. We assess that there are a number of issues at play, including the role of minorities, castes and politics. We welcome the Indian Prime Minister's unequivocal statements, including most recently on 13 October, when he condemned the attacks; called for urgent measures to tackle religious violence; authorised deployment of additional police to restore law and order and offered compensation to the victims. On 17 October, during his visit to New Delhi, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, expressed the Government's concerns about the current situation to Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of State for External Affairs, and Mohammed Quereshi, Chairman of the Minorities Commission in New Delhi.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which representatives of his Department and those agencies for which he is responsible were present at the briefing given on 26 February 2004 by the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross on that organisation's report on alleged abuses by coalition forces in Iraq. [229045]

Bill Rammell: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer given by my right. hon. Friend the then Foreign Secretary (Mr. Straw) to my hon. Friend the Member for Hampstead and Highgate (Glenda Jackson) on 26 May 2004, *Official Report*, column 1635W. We would not as a matter of course identify officials involved in such meetings but I can confirm that the officials were representatives of the Office of the UK Special Representative in Baghdad.

Kashmir: Armed Conflict

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in India and Pakistan on easing movements across the line of control in Kashmir. [230248]

Bill Rammell: The UK has long been at the forefront of seeking to improve conditions for residents of Jammu and Kashmir on both sides of the line of control. In September and October this year, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed the need for progress on economic links between India and Pakistan, and between the two divided parts of Kashmir with President Zardari of Pakistan and Indian Minister for External Affairs, Pranab Mukherjee. We also consistently raise with both countries the importance of making progress on bilateral relations, including improving conditions for Kashmiris on both sides of the line of control.

Improving cross-border trade between India and Pakistan is important to developing the economies of both countries and cementing progress in the bilateral relationship. We therefore welcome the recent reopening of trade across the line of control.

Kosovo: Refugees

Mr. MacShane: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received from HM Ambassador in Kosovo on Roma refugee camps in Kosovo. [231202]

Caroline Flint: The Government continue to be concerned by the situation in the Roma refugee camps in northern Kosovo. The British embassy in Pristina monitors UN and non-governmental organisation (NGO) reports on the three affected camps: Osterode/Osterode, Cesmin Llug/Cesmin Lug and Leposavic/Leposaviq. International donors and NGOs have recently provided funding to help with rebuilding houses and are assisting members of the Roma community to rebuild their lives. 450 people have moved out of the camps after the completion of the first phase of the rebuilding of the Roma Mahalla, the Roma district of Mitrovica/Mitrovicë which was destroyed during the 1998-99 conflict. A further 48 people are in the process of being assessed for return to suitable accommodation. According to the Danish Refugee Council which administers the camps, there are approximately 169 Roma still living in the camps.

Renewable Energy

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on the European Union's targets for renewable energy usage; and if he will make a statement. [224978]

Gillian Merron: The EU's climate change and energy package is an example of EU global leadership on climate change. Agreement on the package, later this year, will underline that the EU is on a fast track to a low carbon economy. A key part of this is the target the EU has set itself of deriving 20 per cent. of its energy needs from renewables.

The climate and energy package, including the renewables element, has been the subject of several recent discussions in the NSID-EU Cabinet Committee, which my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary chairs, and at which the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) is represented. BERR's recent consultation on the UK's renewable energy strategy sets out plans for driving up the use of renewable energy in the UK, to enable us to meet our share of the EU target. It will help shape the UK's renewable energy strategy, which will be published next spring, once the UK's share of the target is agreed.

The lead for the EU's 2020 package was previously shared between BERR and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs. Following recent structural changes, that lead now falls to the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Russia: South Ossetia

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he plans to make to the Russian Government on their refusal to allow the EU ceasefire monitors into South Ossetia and Abkhazia; and if he will make a statement. [230633]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I, along with senior officials, are in regular contact on this issue with our partners in the EU, UN and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE). The Government continue to press the Russian Government, through these organisations, to allow the OSCE monitors and the EU monitoring mission access to South Ossetia and Abkhazia.

The head of the OSCE mission visited Moscow on 22 October and met with the Russian Deputy Foreign Minister to discuss access to the disputed territories. France currently holds the EU presidency and on 22 October the French Foreign Minister, Bernard Kouchner, called on the Russians to grant European observers in Georgia access to the disputed areas.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government are taking to tackle piracy in the waters off the Somali coast. [232638]

Bill Rammell: The Government supported United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1816 and 1838 calling on parties to address the growing problem of piracy off the coast of Somalia. We have been working with our EU and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) partners to implement these resolutions.

In September, the EU set up a team to co-ordinate naval escorts protecting World Food Programme deliveries to Mogadishu. The EU is now planning a larger counter-piracy operation to which the UK will provide the operation commander and operation headquarters. EU partners agree that any operation must be co-ordinated with NATO and Combined Task Force 150, themselves active to deter piracy off the Horn of Africa. The UK contributes to both.

Through the Department for International Development, the UK has allocated £25 million to support efforts to tackle instability in Somalia, which creates the conditions allowing piratical activity to flourish.

Uzbekistan

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Uzbekistan on establishing an independent inquiry into the events in Andijan in May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [229374]

Caroline Flint: The UK has proposed on numerous occasions, both bilaterally and with EU partners, to the Government of Uzbekistan that they establish an independent inquiry into the events in Andijan in May 2005. Most recently, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials raised this issue with the Uzbek Government during a visit to Tashkent in May 2008.

The EU has held two rounds of EU-Uzbekistan experts' meetings on the Andijan events, where the Uzbek side has maintained that these events were a foreign-led conspiracy to exploit religious "extremists" and terrorism in order to effect a "coloured revolution". The Uzbek authorities have consistently rejected calls for an independent, international enquiry.

Uzbekistan: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the next EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue will take place; and if he will make a statement. [229376]

Caroline Flint: The third EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue is due to take place in mid-2009. The second EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue took place on 5 June 2008 under the Slovenian presidency.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Uzbekistan on the detention of journalists Salijon Abdurahmanov and Yusuf Juma; and if he will make a statement. [229377]

Caroline Flint: Officials from our embassy in Tashkent have met Salijon Abdurahmanov and Yusuf Juma on a number of occasions. We are deeply concerned by their arrests and are following their situation closely. Both cases were raised at the EU-Uzbekistan Human Rights Dialogue on 5 June 2008.

Together with our EU partners, we continue to urge the Uzbek authorities to implement fully their international human rights obligations.

Uzbekistan: Refugees

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of refugees who left Uzbekistan for neighbouring countries following events in Andijan in May 2005; and if he will make a statement. [229366]

Caroline Flint: UK estimates of the number of refugees who left Uzbekistan for neighbouring countries following events in Andijan in May 2005 are based on figures released by the international agencies.

The UN High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) was closely involved in supporting efforts by Kyrgyzstan to give shelter to some 500 refugees from Andijan in May 2005. Of the 450 refugees who initially registered with UNHCR, 439 were transferred to Romania at the end of July and on to third countries. There may be many more Uzbek refugees in Kyrgyzstan who have not registered with UNHCR or other international organisations.

We are aware that small numbers of refugees from Uzbekistan applied for asylum in other states including Russia, Ukraine and Kazakhstan.

The EU has raised concerns with Kyrgyzstan and other host countries at the return of some refugees to Uzbekistan contrary to international law.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Register

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission what assessment the Commission has made of the accuracy of the Electoral Register. [232974]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that its 2005 report, 'Understanding Electoral Registration', found that the best estimate for non-registration among the eligible household population in England and Wales at 15 October 2000 was between 8 per cent. and 9 per cent. The report is available in the House of Commons Library and on the Commission's website.

In addition, the Commission published in October 2007 the findings of a report by GfK NOP into registration in London: The completeness and accuracy of the Electoral Registers in Greater London—a pilot study, which is available on its website.

The Commission also informs me that it is planning to undertake a review of local Electoral Registers in a small sample of local authority areas. This is due to begin in early 2009.

Political Parties: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission how many cases involving *(a)* regulated donees and *(b)* possible breaches of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 the Electoral Commission has (i) investigated, (ii) considered referring to the police and (iii) referred to the police in (A) 2008 and (B) in each of the last eight years; what offences were involved in each case; and how many investigators were employed on this work in 2008. [232711]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has investigated five cases involving regulated donees and possible breaches of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000 (PPERA). Two cases arose in 2007 and the remaining three arose in 2008.

I am informed that all these cases involved the late reporting of donations to the Commission. The late reporting of donations by regulated donees is a criminal offence, so the Commission always considers whether such a matter should be referred to the police. The Commission decided to refer one of the cases arising in 2008 to the police.

The Commission further informs me that during 2008 this work was conducted by the Commission's Enforcement Team (Casework) which consists of a team manager, an investigator and two caseworkers. This team also deals with enforcement issues relating to all other categories of regulated entities under PPERA, and the administration of Policy Development Grants.

Representation of the People Act 1983

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 84W, on the Representation of the People Act 1983, what consideration the Commission has given to issuing its guidance in the form of codes of practice under paragraph 14 of schedule 4A of the 1983 Act. [232925]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it believes that issuing guidance in the form of codes of practice would not provide a regulated entity with any additional assistance or certainty, beyond that provided by the Commission's current guidance.

The Commission also informs me that the procedure for producing codes of practice requires that the Secretary of State approves the draft and may amend the draft before it is laid before Parliament. The Commission is concerned that this requirement would reduce its ability to update the guidance on a timely basis.

The Commission has not received any representations from regulated entities seeking the production of a code of practice.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by her Office in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [231434]

Tessa Jowell: No equipment was lost by my office in the last 12 months.

My office, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data-related incidents for the period 2007-08.

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what consultancy contracts have been issued in relation to the 2012 Olympics in each year since 2004; and what the *(a)* value of contract, *(b)* purpose of contract and *(c)* contractor was in each case. [219262]

Tessa Jowell: The following tables show information on consultancy contracts issued by the Government Olympic Executive (GOE), the now disbanded Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA), in relation to the 2012 Olympics in each financial year since 2004.

These costs reflect the process of preparing the bid, establishing and building up the requisite high level commercial and financial capacity in these organisations, while ensuring that key delivery milestones are, and continue to be, achieved across the programme. For example, this expert advice has helped us to:

> Undertake detailed work to deliver the funding package for the Games just 21 months from bid win, well ahead of any other Games;
>
> Begin construction on the Olympic Stadium over 2 months ahead of schedule.

Government Olympic Executive (GOE)

The GOE information on consultancy contracts gives the value of contracts issued as at August 2008.

Contracts issued 2004-05 to 2008-09

Supplier	*Task*	*Value (£) including VAT*
2004-05		
Partnerships UK	Bid preparation	33,000

Contracts issued 2004-05 to 2008-09

Supplier	*Task*	*Value (£) including VAT*
Partnerships UK	Legacy Proposals	21,131
PWC	Bid preparation	182,000
2005-06		
Accenture	Preparation, facilitation for, and write up of cross-departmental workshop	29,328
Central Office of Information	Advertising for Chief Executive	60,609
Hays	Assessment of the terms and conditions of the ODA Chief Executive	10,340
KPMG	Post bid-win Olympics Cost Review	1,190,000
Odgers, Ray and Berndtson	Recruitment	25,876
Rockpools	Recruitment	72,850
2006-07		
Judith Riley Ltd.	Workshop facilitation	6,027
CABE	Feasibility Study for Architecture and Built Environment Centre in Park	20,000
PWC	5 Boroughs Deprivation Study	23,289
Stanton Marris	Change management of GOE	16,616
2007-08		
20:20 Delivery	Governance and delivery planning	75,460
PWC	Development of the Evaluation Framework	73,320
Deloitte	Review of the Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU) (Part 2) and provision of advice on the transfer of OPSU functions to GOE	187,801
Giles Emerson	Contribution to the Legacy Promises Document	4,418
TFG International	Provision of Best Practice advice from the Sydney Olympic and Paralympic Games	44,146
Sarah Hunter	Scoping of Community Engagement Project	800
Odgers, Ray and Berndtson	Recruitment	179,126
Central Office of Information	Organisation of "Ask the Team" events	70,113
Central Office of Information	Olympics Legacy Research	121,409
2008-09		
Deloitte	Facilitation of GOE workshop	3,402
Sports Recruitment International	Recruitment	34,158
Stanton Marris	Facilitation of GOE workshop	7,270
Decision Analysis Services	Implementation of NAO recommendations on Olympic programme risk management	9,183

Olympic Programme Support Unit (OPSU)—disbanded in September 2007, after which functions were absorbed into GOE

Contracts issued 2005-06 to 2007-08

Supplier	*Task*	*Value (£) including VAT*
2005-06		
Accenture	Establishment, and interim operation of OPSU	881,937
2006-07		
Ann Kennedy	Staff training	2,700
Moorhouse Consulting Ltd	Staff training	2,600
PTP Associates	Staff training	9,043
PWC	Development of Olympic Sustainability Strategy	94,000
2007-08		
Deloitte	Review of OPSU (Part 1)	31,107
Forum for the Future	Staff training	16,770
Turner and Townsend	Programme Management Support	87,859

Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA)

In my previous answer to the hon. Member for Faversham and Mid-Kent (Hugh Robertson) on 16 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 977W, I stated that the ODA had spent some £50 million on consultancy as at 9 July 2007. However, the ODA have since advised me that the information they provided for that answer included the cost of contracts and or elements of contracts that were not strictly consultancy services and therefore should not have been included in the figures provided in my reply. The amended figures for the periods are as follows:

	£
2006-07	13,676,095.21
2007-08 (up to 9 July)	1,155,508.00

For accuracy, the non-consultancy elements, that should not have been included in the figures provided in my reply, have been taken out of the information provided in the following table.

The following table provides information on ODA consultancy spend to July 2008, not the value of contracts. I am unable to give details of the total value of the ODA consultancy contracts at this stage, as this could compromise the ODA's commercial negotiating position and lead to an increase in cost.

Contracts issued 2005-06 to 2007-08

Supplier	*Task*	*Value of ODA consultancy spend as at July 2008 (£)*
2005-06		
Aon Limited	Operational services—pension advisory services	5,040,102
EC Harris LLP	Transport advice	1,512,720
Ernst and Young LLP	Provision of financial advisory services and interim staff to the ODA, prior to the recruitment of permanent ODA finance staff	8,344,509
John Rowan and Partners LLP	Procurement advice	122,414
CKR	Procurement advice	379,296
Rockpools	Recruitment	5,257,036
2006-07		
Augmentis Integrated Services Limited	Procurement policy and development of operating procedures	174,036
Bentley Systems	IT/software	41,900
Bravo Solution UK Ltd	e-sourcing services	1,587,324
Business Systems Group Limited	IT goods and services (data network and telephony)	193,163
Capgemini UK PLC	Project management support	676,963
Cedar Open Accounts Limited	Finance open accounts system	2,115
COA Solutions Ltd	Annual maintenance and access licensing for Cedar Open Accounts	84,770
Computer People	IT services	263,540
Cornwell Management Consultants plc	Data and records management services	11,500
Elstree Computing Limited	Quality Management Services (Transport)	97,570
ES Group Ltd	Event support	3,925
Eminence Grove Consultancy	Organisational services	84,639
Eurodata Systems plc	IT goods and services	800,279
Future Inclusion Limited	Transport: Access Audit—Olympic Transport Plan	3,525
Hedra plc	Procurement advice	2,630,542
Intelligent Risk Pty Ltd	Security advice	233,092
Ingo Consultancy	Transport consultancy	37,023
Jobs Go Public Limited	Recruitment	66,423
John Donoghue Associates	Industrial Relations consultancy	5,805
KPMG LLP	Financial advice	1,591,764
Matera Limited	Health, safety and environmental advice	11,506
Norman Broadbent	Equalities and diversity	505,290
Norwich Union	Financial advice	62,600
Pan Leisure Consulting Limited	Velopark advice	52,503
Parsons Brinckerhoff Ltd	Sustainability advice	365,309
Longwood Associates Ltd	Industrial relations	38,682
Pringle Brandon LLP	Office configuration	12,200
Quo Imus Ltd	Transport advice	1,125,634
Rullion Computer Personnel Ltd	IT provision	276,642
SpencerMayes	Office configuration of Planning Decision Teams' office	5,576
Steer Davies Gleave	Transport advice	955,034
Turner & Townsend Ltd	Procurement advice	2,003,070
Welcom Software Technology International Ltd	IT consultancy	37,000
2007-08		
WS Atkins	Engineering, design, and infrastructure consultancy	13,583
Ove Arup and Partners Limited	Design, transport, and infrastructure consultancy	377,253
Backhouse Jones Solicitors	Legal advice	2,763
Bond International Software (UK) Ltd	IT/software	22,055
Booz Allen Hamilton Ltd	Transport security advice	41,125

Contracts issued 2005-06 to 2007-08

Supplier	Task	Value of ODA consultancy spend as at July 2008 (£)
Capita Symonds	Project management support	107,518
Davis Langdon LLP	Project Management support	4,175
Faber Maunsell Ltd	Transport advice	16,330
Fujitsu Services Limited	Back office systems and services	4,051,344
Grant Thornton UK LLP	Financial advice	261,244
[illegible] Communications and Management	Event support	5,922
Ottaway Strategic Management Ltd	Equalities and diversity evaluation	15,975
[illegible] Solicitors	Legal advice	2,650
T-Three Consulting Ltd	Human resources	18,140
Deltek UK Ltd	On-site consultancy services	23,232

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for the Olympics how many documents produced by the Government Office for the Olympics have been submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230580]

Tessa Jowell: No documents have been submitted for approval for Crystal Mark status.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230949]

Mr. Woodward: None.

Parades Commission: Public Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public relations companies are contracted to the Northern Ireland Parades Commission to provide a media handling service; and how much they were paid in each year since 2004-05. [232869]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission. I have asked the Parades Commission secretary to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Homosexuality

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of whether institutionalised homophobia exists within the Police Service of Northern Ireland. [227412]

Paul Goggins: The PSNI equality and diversity unit is responsible for monitoring incidences of recorded bullying and harassment on the grounds of homophobic behaviour. From 1 January 2005 to 22 October 2008 there have been four cases raised by three individuals.

The PSNI does not believe that there is any evidence to support a view that it is institutionally homophobic.

Young Offenders

Mark Durkan: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of residents in young offender centres in Northern Ireland had been diagnosed with addictions in each of the last five years. [228236]

Paul Goggins: Since October 2005, on committal, young offenders are asked if they are dependent on any substance and the following table details the number of young offenders recording a dependency for each of the previous three years.

Category of substance	*October to September each year* 2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
Alcohol	24	23	21
Cannabis	6	2	4
Ecstasy	0	1	0
Heroin	1	1	3
Prescription drugs	2	0	1
Solvents	1	0	0
Other substances	1	0	0

Lead responsibility for the provision of addiction services for prisoners in Northern Ireland was transferred to the Department of Health, Social Services and Public Safety on 1 October 2008. I have, therefore, copied your question and my response to Health Minister, Michael McGimpsey.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many enemy combatants have been captured by UK forces during operations in Afghanistan in each month of the last two years. [230814]

Mr. Hutton: I have nothing to add to the answer that I gave to the hon. Member on 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1016W.

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the ratio is of *(a)* British combat armed personnel to UK Chinook helicopters deployed in Afghanistan, *(b)* British combat armed personnel to UK Apache helicopters deployed in Afghanistan and *(c)* UK Apache helicopters to UK Chinook helicopters deployed in Afghanistan. [232248]

Mr. Hutton: The ratio of UK Apache helicopters to UK Chinook helicopters deployed in Afghanistan is approximately 1:1.

I am withholding information regarding the ratios of UK deployed personnel and Chinook and Apache helicopters as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of the armed forces.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the security situation in Afghanistan. [232430]

Mr. Hutton: Afghanistan continues to present significant security challenges, particularly, in the south and east of the country where the Taliban continue to use intimidation and violence against the local population. In Helmand, progress has been made along the Helmand river valley and we are expanding control with the Afghan Security Forces taking an ever more active role.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many studies his Department has *(a)* initiated and *(b)* completed on the lessons learned for his Department from the war in Afghanistan; and if he will place a copy of each completed study in the Library. [232934]

Mr. Hutton: The Department continually studies every aspect of our continuing operations in Afghanistan to identify and learn lessons in order to improve our operational capability. This work contains sensitive information and is therefore being withheld as its release would or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces. The Department does routinely engage with the Defence and Foreign Affairs Committees on such matters as lessons learned from operations, and these reports are already widely available in the public domain.

Armed Forces: Coroners

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in what circumstances his officials may decide the conclusions of a Board of Inquiry into a fatal incident are unsafe; what steps he is required to take to inform the coroner before or after an inquest has been held; by what procedures he may instruct the president of a board of inquiry to consider new evidence; and by what procedures a bereaved family may challenge the findings or recommendations of a board of inquiry. [230788]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Each board of inquiry's (BOI) provisional report is submitted to the relevant convening/reviewing authority for approval before the report is declared final. In considering the provisional report, the convening/reviewing authority may require the board to undertake further work because fresh evidence has come to light, because some evidence available to the BOI has been omitted, or because some relevant aspect has not been covered adequately and therefore the BOI has not met its terms of reference. Following completion of further work a revised provisional report must be submitted to the convening/reviewing authority for further consideration. This process may be undertaken as often as necessary to ensure the BOI has met its terms of reference. Where further work is required, the convening/reviewing authority should give specific instructions in writing to the BOI. Where it is considered that the BOI has met its terms of reference and no further work is required, the convening/reviewing authority makes its comments on the report and declares the provisional report as the final report and it notifies the president of the BOI that the inquiry has concluded and that the board is released from its duty. A copy of the final report is then made available to both the coroner and the next of kin if they wish to receive it.

Some coroners await the completion of the BOI report before they hold the inquest, although there is no requirement for any coroner to do so and, indeed, some choose not to. Where the coroner chooses to await the completion of a BOI before holding the inquest, the coroner is provided only with a copy of the final BOI report. Where a BOI is completed after the inquest is held there is no requirement to inform the coroner of its findings.

Where a BOI is held into the circumstances surrounding a death the MOD recognises that the bereaved families of Service personnel will have an interest in its conclusions and our policy is that we offer a personal briefing and a copy of the BOI report to the next of kin. Where the family wishes subsequently to question any aspect of the BOI they may do so in a number of ways: during the briefing given to them on the board's findings, conclusions and recommendations; through their Visiting Officer; by contacting the relevant single Service authority using the details provided with their copy of the BOI report; through their Member of Parliament; or by contacting the Ministry of Defence in writing by letter or email using the Ministry of Defence website.

Should new information come to light after the completion of the final report which the convening authority judges to cast doubt on the conclusions of the BOI, a new inquiry may be convened to review the findings in light of the new information.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the statement of 7 June 2007, *Official Report*, columns 26-8WS, on improved support for families, what response he has received from the Scottish Executive on whether provision could be made for inquiries into the deaths abroad of service personnel to take place in Scotland. [232460]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: No reply has yet been received from the Scottish Executive to the letter sent by my right hon. Friend the then Secretary of State, to the Cabinet Secretary for Justice and Communities (Mr. MacAskill MSP) on 27 March 2008.

Armed Forces: Death

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of Joint Service Publication 751 dealing with the return of possessions to the bereaved families of service personnel. [232666]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A updated copy of JSP 751 will be placed in the Library of the House; chapter 12 of this document outlines the procedure to be followed for the return of personnel effects following the death of a service person.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is given to members of the armed forces on their choice of notified next of kin; what opportunities there are to revise and update named individuals according to circumstances; and what provision is made for the designation of other individuals to be notified in the event of death in service. [232807]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The definitions and guidance for nominations of next of kin (NoK) and emergency contacts (EC) are laid out in annex A to chapter 1 of Joint Service Publication 751. All service personnel are fully briefed during training on the importance keeping details of their NoK/EC up to date, and update briefs are delivered prior to deployment. Service personnel are required to record their NoK and EC details via the self-service facility on the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system. They can also telephone the JPA Centre (JPAC) inquiry centre where an operator will update their records for them whenever the requirement arises. Individuals can nominate a number of ECs who will be informed, in addition to the NoK, in the event of death.

Armed Forces: Intimidation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the result was of the review of monitoring arrangements of the extent of bullying in the armed forces referred to in paragraph 75 of the Government's response to the third report from the Defence Committee of Session 2004-05, on duty of care, Cm. 6620; and what steps he has taken to reduce under-reporting of bullying. [232578]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: In 2006 the Joint Service Publication (JSP) 763 'The MOD Harassment Complaints Procedures' was issued. This provides guidance to all MOD Service and civilian personnel about making, responding to, advising on, investigating, and deciding on, complaints of harassment and bullying.

Reporting of incidents of bullying and harassment improved following the issue of JSP 763. Annex P to JSP 763 describes how logs are to be kept recording all complaints (formal and informal) reported through unit equality and diversity advisors. Statistics from the logs are consolidated at single Service level biannually and subsequently analysed on a tri-Service basis to identify trends and lessons learned.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes have been made to the standard pre-recruitment information pack for the armed forces following the review conducted in 2007; what information is available to parents of recruits on access to the Service Complaints Commissioner; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the information pack. [230910]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Information about the role of the Service Complaints Commissioner (SCC) is communicated through a number of means. Joint Service Publication 831 Service Complaints (Redress of Individual Grievance) sets out the policy and process for making and handling Service complaints, and includes a chapter on the role of the SCC. This is available on the Defence intranet and www.mod.uk to all serving personnel. A booklet covering the main points of the complaints process, with a leaflet explaining the role of the SCC has been issued for distribution to all Service establishments. A team profile is under development on the Defence intranet to make information relating to Service complaints available electronically. This profile will also provide a link to the SCC's website. The SCC has visited establishments of all three Services, and continues to do so regularly, to meet serving personnel and the chain of command to raise awareness of her role.

There is no standard tri-Service pre-recruitment pack and the three Services have different approaches to providing information to recruits about how to make complaints in confidence:

Navy

During Phase 1 training Royal Navy and Royal Marine Rating and Other Ranks recruits at each establishment are briefed on both equality and diversity related complaints and Service complaints generally.

Army

All recruits and trainees receive briefings that inform them of the function of the complaints procedures and the various channels which are available to raise a complaint. These include: the chain of command, Women's Royal Voluntary Service, the Padre, the Unit Welfare Officer, a Medical Officer and the confidential Support Line.

This is currently in the process of being reinforced by the inclusion of detail covering the role of the SCC in the "Army Recruiting and Training Division Code of Conduct and Behaviour for Recruits," leaflet and the Recruiting Group publication, "A Guide for Guardians and Parents". With the Commissioner's agreement, a paragraph outlining her role will be included in letters sent to parents.

RAF

There are two training establishments for the RAF, Cranwell and Halton.

At RAF Cranwell, the Officer and Aircrew Cadet Training Unit is responsible for conducting the initial training of all officers and non-commissioned aircrew.

Since January 2008, all cadets at RAF Cranwell have been briefed during their first week of training on the role and contact details of the SCC.

At RAF Halton, comprehensive measures are in place to ensure that new recruits are aware of the complaints procedures. These include two 45-minute briefings on the RAF's Equality and Diversity Policy, and the distribution of a booklet entitled "Combating Bullying and Harassment in the Royal Air Force" to all recruits. The issue is also addressed in the Station Commander's Supervisory Care Directive, which is mandatory reading by all instructors at RAF Halton and is available to all recruits.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will set a date on which the minimum age for the voluntary recruitment of persons into Her Majesty's Armed Services will be raised in accordance with the terms of the United Nations Optional Protocol on the Rights of Children in Armed Conflict. [232347]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The minimum age for entry to the UK armed forces is 16, which reflects the normal minimum school leaving age. All recruitment to the UK armed forces is voluntary and recruitment of those aged under 18 requires parental consent. The Government made clear in their interpretive declaration when ratifying the Optional Protocol on the Involvement of Children in Armed Conflict that the armed forces would continue to recruit from age 16, but made a clear commitment to take all feasible measures to ensure that those who had not yet reached the age of 18-years-old did not take a direct part in hostilities. The Government remain committed to meeting their obligations under the protocol and there are no plans to change the interpretive declaration.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mandatory senior officers' equality and diversity seminars at the Joint Equality and Diversity Training Centre, Shrivenham; and if he will commission an independent evaluation of the programme. [232579]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Senior Officers' Seminar is always well attended and is highly valued by those that participate in it. There has been no formal external evaluation of the seminar and there are no plans at present to commission one.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference for the oversight of the defence training estate by Ofsted are; and what remit inspectors have to *(a)* monitor and *(b)* report on measures to address bullying, harassment and ill-treatment. [232808]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The terms of reference for Ofsted to inspect training are as follows: to determine the extent to which progress has been made in addressing issues of care, welfare and support for recruits and trainees during initial training including examination of the self assessment process. Ofsted will evaluate the effectiveness of the strategic and operational management of the care, welfare and support for recruits and trainees during initial training and use the Common Inspection Framework (the national framework for inspection of post 16 education and training) to comment on the standard of initial training.

The terms of reference state that Ofsted should take account of the national care standards and safeguarding where relevant, make judgments on strengths and areas for development of initial training, visit training establishments, armed forces careers offices, acquaint and selection centres and service training headquarters and establishments identified as priorities. Under the terms of reference Ofsted meet MOD officials to provide feedback on inspection progress.

Ofsted is currently undertaking inspections following up on work previously undertaken by the Adult Learning Inspectorate on issues of care and welfare, including treatment, bullying and harassment. Additionally, Ofsted will comment on what it has observed in respect of the recruit journey, from contact with the armed forces careers office to phase 1 training. Ofsted will report its inspection findings in spring 2009.

Armed Forces: Young People

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the timescale is for review of the guidance note for commanding officers dealing with the care and management of under-18s in HM Armed Services; and if he will place a copy of the most recent edition of the guidance note in the Library. [232575]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The guidance note for commanding officers who are responsible for the care and management of under-18s in HM armed forces is regularly reviewed and is updated when required following changes in legislation or Service policy. The current guidance note is being updated now to take into account changes in legislation regarding the selling of tobacco products to under-18s and the appointment of the Service Complaints Commissioner. The revised guidance note should be ready for publication shortly and a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Army: Conditions of Employment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the principal conclusions of the Army Duty of Care Audit in 2007 were; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report. [232667]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We are not aware of an Army Duty of Care Audit taking place in 2007.

Army: Resignations

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the drop-out rate was for recruits undergoing infantry training at Catterick barracks in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2007. [232613]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The percentage of Infantry recruits who did not complete their infantry training at the Infantry Training Centre (ITC), Catterick is as follows:

	Percentage
2002-03	23.2
2007-08	35.6

At the start of 2002-03 Infantry training was conducted as a phase one course at the Army Training Regiments (ATRs) followed by a 14-week phase two course at the Infantry Training Centre Catterick. During 2002-03 a new 24-week combined phase one and two course started at Catterick. So prior to the first full year of the combined course at 2003-04 some of the wastage would have already taken place at the ATRs and the wastage at Catterick reflected only the second part of the training. The figures for 2002-03 and 2007-08 therefore cannot be compared on a like-for-like basis.

Army: Self-mutilation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the conclusions were of the 2005 Army-sponsored study on causal factors of self-harm; whether further studies were commissioned as a result of the study's findings; and if he will place a copy of the completed report in the Library. [232580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A copy of the report, 'Prevention of Suicidal Behaviour Among Army Personnel: In-depth Interviews with Soldiers and Healthcare Providers', including the conclusions, will be placed in the Library of the House.

No further studies were commissioned specifically as a result of this study's findings. However, much progress has been made since 2005 in supporting those who may be at risk of suicide or self-harm. In particular, a suicide vulnerability risk management policy has been put in place to assist in identifying potential suicide victims and provide a structure for support.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is available to commanding officers in order to complete their quarterly reports required by Army headquarters; and what data are captured from these reports in order to improve understanding and protection against suicide and self-harm. [232810]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Army guidance for Suicide Vulnerability Risk Management (SVRM) is contained within Army General Administrative Instruction (AGAI) Volume 3 chapter 110. This guidance assists commanding officers to identify and manage individuals deemed to be potentially vulnerable in order to put in place the relevant and most appropriate care package.

Units are required to report twice a year via proforma, identifying numbers of incidents of bullying, self-harm and attempted suicide. This reporting helps to further the Army's understanding of risks and trends in order to develop preventative measures and policies.

Once an individual is identified as vulnerable and placed on the SVRM Register, there is a requirement for formal assessments of the individual to take place every three months as part of the Care Assessment Plan (CAP). Guidance on the CAP and how to put it in place with relevant associated measures are described within the document referred to above.

Army: Suicide

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the 15 March 2005 version of the Army Provost Manual offering guidance on suspected suicides and *(b)* any subsequent revised guidance. [232665]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Section IX of Chapter 34 of the Provost Marshal (Army) Manual (Volume 5), which covers investigations into undetermined deaths, self-harm and attempted self-harm will be placed in the Library of the House. It was last revised on 15 March 2005 and is the extant version. There has been one Headquarters Provost Marshal (Army) policy note issued on this subject since then, which will also be placed in the Library of the House.

AWE Aldermaston

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a pre-construction safety report to be submitted to the Health and Safety Executive's Nuclear Installations Inspectorate on the planned construction of a uranium enrichment facility at AWE Aldermaston. [232377]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are no plans to build a uranium enrichment facility at the Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE). Nor has the process of uranium enrichment ever been undertaken at AWE Aldermaston.

AWE currently has the capability to store, cast, machine and recycle enriched uranium. These capabilities are required for the foreseeable future, not only for use in Trident warheads, but also for submarine reactor fuel. Operation of these facilities is licensed by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate. In order to provide this capability into the future, the best value for money option is to build a replacement uranium handling facility. The proposed replacement handling facility programme is in the assessment phase. If this handling facility proceeds to construction, the requisite safety reports will be submitted to meet regulatory requirements.

AWE Burghfield: Planning Permission

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 447W, on AWE Burghfield: planning permission, what the reasons are for the revisions to the timetable for submitting planning applications for new development at Atomic Weapons Establishment sites. [232441]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The overall planning programme remains within the 2005 to 2015 period identified within the AWE Sites Development Context Plan. Some changes within the projected planning submission programme have occurred, reflecting the need to address technical issues and a reordering of priority in some cases. Such changes are to be expected in a complex capital facilities programme.

AWE Management: Emergencies

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the Royal Berkshire Hospital last took part in a Level 1 emergency exercise for an Atomic Weapons Establishment site; and when the hospital is next scheduled to participate in such an exercise. [232434]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Royal Berkshire Hospital plays an important role in emergency planning for Atomic Weapons Establishment (AWE) sites and is routinely invited to participate in Level 1 emergency exercises. The hospital last took part in a Level 1 emergency exercise for an AWE site on 30 September 2003. AWE supported an exercise at the hospital involving simulated management and treatment of radioactively contaminated casualties in October 2006. The next Level 1 exercises are planned for late spring (Aldermaston) and autumn (Burghfield) 2009; precise dates have yet to be finalised with the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

AWE Management: Floods

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the costs arising from the July 2007 flooding at the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites. [232435]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As I indicated in the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1029W, the costs, to the extent that they are not covered by commercial insurance, are still the subject of commercial discussions between the MOD and AWE plc.

AWE Management: Safety

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place to monitor AWE Management Ltd's retention of a nuclear baseline which demonstrates that its organisational structures, staffing and competences remain sufficient to maintain nuclear safety at the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites operated by the company. [232440]

Mr. Quentin Davies: In common with civil nuclear operators, the Atomic Weapons Establishment sites are licensed by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate (NII) and are required to comply with 36 licence conditions. Licence condition 36 requires that any changes to the nuclear baseline organisation for managing safety is monitored, assessed and categorised in terms of its impact on nuclear safety management in order to gain appropriate regulatory approval. The NII monitors AWE compliance against its licence conditions through inspection of processes and procedures.

AWE Management: Standards

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether AWE plc has complied with the improvement notice served by the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate of the Health and Safety Executive on 3 April 2008 in respect of criticality documentation shortfalls. [232842]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The improvement notice issued to AWE plc. by the nuclear installations inspectorate (NII) on 3 April 2008 was served following an investigation into breaches of criticality operating rules at Aldermaston. The notice referred to the need for procedural guidance to have greater clarity. Improvements were sought in respect of the company's arrangements and processes for complying with licence conditions covering operating rules and operating instructions.

AWE plc. has agreed an implementation plan with the NII to meet the aforementioned, which requires the company to complete the necessary improvements by 19 January 2009. The NII has indicated that it is content with AWE plc.'s progress and that at no time were there any immediate operational risks from a criticality event.

Ballistic Missiles

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake research into the merits of a United Kingdom conventional intercontinental ballistic missile programme *(a)* unilaterally and *(b)* jointly with the US. [231702]

Mr. Hutton: We have no such plans.

Defence Information Infrastructure Programme

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost has been of the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme to date; what assessment he has made of the reasons for the time taken by the programme; what estimate he has made of the cost of these delays; and if he will make a statement. [232104]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The NAO Report published 4 July 2008 presented the cost of the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) Programme as £1.422 billion to 31 March 2008, with an additional £306 million spent on related programmes. As at 30 September 2008, the spend on DII now stands at £1.702 billion, with £372 million for related programmes.

The reasons for the time taken to deliver elements of the programme are set out in the NAO Report, which my Department has agreed.

The cost of the delays incurred up until the end of financial year 2007-08 have added an estimated £182 million cost to the programme over and above the original estimate, across the 10 years of the programme.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects a design solution to be available under the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme for the Falkland Islands; and if he will make a statement. [232106]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Overseas site solutions are designed to meet individual technical, physical, environmental, communications requirements and circumstances at each location. These necessarily take time to develop. The Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme has delivered infrastructure to support the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) application in the Falkland Islands and is currently developing the DII (Future) overseas solution, which should mature during 2009.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the reasons are for the time taken to *(a)* design and *(b)* implement an effective encryption mechanism under the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme; and if he will make a statement. [232107]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The programme is already successfully delivering fully encrypted DII(F) laptops to personnel at various sites.

The time taken to design and implement an effective encryption mechanism for other removable devices and media under the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) (DII(F)) programme is driven by the need to ensure the designs themselves are robust and capable of countering known and projected threats to the Department's information assets as well as operating correctly when connected to the DII(F) core infrastructure. Devices and their encryption mechanisms must be thoroughly tested and accredited to meet national governmental security standards before they can be deployed.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects the completion of an overseas design solution for the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme; what the reasons are for the time taken; and if he will make a statement. [232110]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Germany is the major overseas site and at this time some 5,500 Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) DII(F) terminals have been successfully delivered there. Solutions for other overseas sites must be designed to meet technical, physical, environmental, communications requirements and circumstances at these sites, which necessarily take time to deliver. These solutions are expected to mature progressively during 2009.

Departmental Visits

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost to the public purse has been of visits by the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) project programme to *(a)* Belize, *(b)* the Falkland Islands, *(c)* Germany, *(d)* Kathmandu, *(e)* Naples and *(f)* other overseas sites; if he will place in the Library the itinerary of each of these visits, detailing who was present, for how long the visit took place, and what progress was achieved as a consequence of each visit; and if he will make a statement. [232101]

Mr. Quentin Davies: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Gurkhas: Females

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on allowing women to join the Gurkhas. [233120]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Following the recommendation of the 2007 review of Gurkha Terms and Conditions of Service, the intention that Nepalese women should, in due course, be recruited into the Brigade of Gurkhas in the Corps unit—Engineers, Signals and Logistics—was announced on 8 March 2007. Since then work has been done to test the recruitment, selection and training processes, and to identify options for the way ahead. This work is due to be considered by the Army Board early next year.

Information Warfare

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has made to NATO with respect to cyber defence. [230578]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Secretary of State for Defence has made no recent representations to NATO with respect to cyber defence. The UK MOD is represented at various NATO Cyber Defence symposiums and workshops throughout the year. These meetings include the annual NATO Information Assurance Symposium and the two NATO Cyber Defence Workshops that are held bi-annually.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what definition his Department uses of *(a)* cyber terrorism and *(b)* cyber warfare; and what assessment he has made of the cyber threats posed to the UK. [230580]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: Although we do not have specific definitions for the term cyber terrorism and cyber warfare, we have produced assessments and developed policies in specific areas related to this terminology.

The MOD works in close co-operation with those Government Departments and agencies engaged in assessing threats to the UK. The classification of these assessments prohibits disclosure of their content.

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department has made to the development of *(a)* the NATO Cyber Defence legal framework and *(b)* the cyber security doctrine and strategy. [230582]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is as follows:

(a) NATO does not currently have a Cyber Defence legal framework although they plan to have in the future. The scope and contents of this framework are to be discussed by the NATO Cyber Defence management board meeting this week. The MOD will assist in the development of this document through its drafting process.

(b) The NATO Cyber Defence Policy and the Cyber Defence Concept were approved by the North Atlantic Council (NAC) earlier this year. The NATO Cyber Defence Management Authority (CDMA) was given approval by the NAC in March 2008 and the Concept of Operations for the CDMA are to be approved in this month. The MOD assisted in the development of these documents through their drafting process to final version.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 635W, on Iraq: peacekeeping operations, (1) what issues were covered in the discussions with Jaish-al-Mahdi; [232850]

(2) what the outcome was of the discussions between UK forces and Jaish-al-Mahdi; [232851]

(3) with which organisations discussions were held; [232852]

(4) when the discussions between the armed forces and Jaish-al-Mahdi *(a)* began and *(b)* were completed; and what the dates were of meetings. [232853]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: Discussions with senior figures in Jaish-al-Mahdi in Basra commenced in the summer of 2007 and continued until the end of the year. In a similar manner to other dialogue between the coalition, the Government of Iraq and militia groups, these discussions covered a wide range of issues, including the local security situation, future economic and redevelopment plans and the future role of militia groups within a democratic Iraq. The benefits of this strategy were demonstrated by the fact that on 4 December 2007 all the major parties in Basra—including the Sadrists—signed a document that committed them to supporting the rule of law in the city and the

Iraqi Security Forces as its guardian. Across Iraq, dialogue between the coalition, the Government of Iraq and militia groups continues.

Lynx Helicopters: Procurement

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has received proposals to expedite progress on Future Lynx. [232046]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The Future Lynx programme remains on schedule to achieve an in-service date of 2014 (for the Army's Battlefield Reconnaissance helicopter) and 2015 (for the Navy's Surface Combatant Maritime Rotorcraft).

We continue to work closely with AgustaWestland to identify and explore opportunities to improve speed of delivery, reduce costs and increase operational availability and the contract includes mechanisms to incentivise this process. We are not, however, presently exploring specific opportunities to significantly advance the above dates.

Military Aircraft

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* aircraft and *(b)* helicopters his Department has leased from commercial contractors in each year since 2003; and what the total cost in each year was. [227873]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The number of fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters leased in each year since 2003 was as follows:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Training Aircraft	118	125	125	125	125
C-17 Globemaster	4	4	4	4	4
Helicopters	65	66	66	64	63

The figures for helicopters correct the answer given to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) on 29 February 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2014-15W.

Aircraft leasing costs are not identifiable uniquely from other associated costs, as they may form part of Multi-Activity Contracts which include flying hours, engineering support, simulator hours and in some cases civilian flying instructors and station/airfield support. On this basis, the overall costs for each financial year, were as follows:

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Training Aircraft	14.4	19.1	20.2	20.5	21.8
Helicopters	44	48	49	50	51

The four C-17 aircraft were leased between 2001 and June 2008, after which the leases were ended. As each lease has ended, the last concluding in September 2008, MOD has taken ownership of the aircraft. In accordance with the contractual agreement I am withholding the in-year costs. However, the cost of the lease and support package for a seven-year contract between 2001 and 2008 was £769 million.

Military Aircraft: Training

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many training flying hours crews of the *(a)* Hercules C-130, *(b)* Tristar, *(c)* VC-10 and *(d)* C-17 Globemaster aircraft flew on average in each year since 2001. [230175]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 27 October, (Official Report, column 639W) about training flying hours.

The majority of flying training is achieved during routine flying hours and all flying tasks include an element of aircrew training, therefore it is not possible to show average flying training hours separately. The average number of flying hours per year per crew since 2003 for the categories of aircraft requested are detailed in the table below. Average flying hours per year per crew are not available before 2003. All figures in the table have been rounded to the nearest five:

Financial year	*Hercules C-130*	*TriStar*	*VC-10*	*C-17 Globemaster*	*Average flying hours per crew*
2003-04	435	600	485	550	520
2004-05	410	435	360	595	450
2005-06	375	385	470	570	450
2006-07	340	380	420	445	395
2007-08	305	410	390	435	385

NATO

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of performance under the NATO transformation agenda. [232610]

Mr. Hutton: NATO has come a long way in recognising the importance of expeditionary capabilities in dealing with the broad range of security threats the alliance is likely to face. It continues to make progress, but not as quickly as we—and others—would like. The alliance needs to do more to provide the capabilities it needs for current and future operations, such as strategic and intra-theatre lift and contributions to the NATO Response Force. The UK and other allies have sought to find innovative ways of developing such capabilities through initiatives to make more helicopters and strategic lift available for operations, but ultimately these capabilities depend on sufficient investment by allies in defence, and prioritisation on the capabilities the alliance needs most. NATO Defence Ministers met in London in September to inject more dynamism into this transformation process. NATO's agreement in Budapest the following month to increase targets for the deployability of allies' land forces is a welcome step in the right direction.

Nuclear Weapons

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a redacted copy of JSP 440 Supplement 1: The Defence Manual of Security, Directive for the Security of Nuclear Weapons and Special Nuclear Materials. [232438]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I am withholding Supplement 1 of JSP 440 on the security of nuclear weapons and special nuclear materials in the interests of national security.

Nuclear Weapons: Transport

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what criteria the nuclear weapons convoy group has to meet to pass the annual nuclear standardisation test. [232442]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Joint Service Publication (JSP) 471, Defence Nuclear Accident Response, and JSP 538, Regulation of the Nuclear Weapon Programme, require exercises to be conducted to demonstrate Nuclear Accident Response capabilities. The Defence Nuclear Weapon Regulator assesses nuclear weapon transport accident response exercises in accordance with the criteria in JSP 471 and JSP 538, including the Nuclear Accident Response Organisation Standardisation Test.

An unclassified version of JSP 471 is available from the MOD website at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/HealthandSafetyPublications/JSP471

A redacted copy of JSP 538 is available in the House of Commons Library.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance his Department has issued on the conduct of risk assessments of potential routes for nuclear warhead convoys; and what factors are taken into account in such assessments. [232443]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Guidance on the selection of nuclear weapon convoy routes is set out in Joint Services Publication 483, Nuclear Weapon Logistic Movement and Associated Nuclear Accident Response. Factors in the assessment of routes include the type of road, its surroundings and its proximity to hazards. All potential routes for nuclear warhead convoys are assessed by a qualified team to ensure the safety and security of the operation and the public.

RAF Welford

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a Ministry of Defence Police complement is stationed at RAF Welford. [232437]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence Police currently have an interim complement at RAF Welford.

Trident Missiles

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether a design review of the Trident nuclear warhead has taken place in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [232360]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No. As part of a comprehensive programme of routine safety monitoring procedures, a formal design review of the Trident Re-entry System is undertaken approximately every seven years. The last such review was undertaken in 2006.

USA: Nuclear Weapons

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the purpose of the Enhanced Collaborations projects between the UK and the US in support of the nuclear weapons programme is; which projects *(a)* have been and *(b)* are being undertaken; and when each project started. [233147]

Mr. Hutton: The enhanced collaborations form part of the technical exchanges between the United Kingdom and the United States of America conducted under the auspices of the 1958 Mutual Defence Agreement, which support the UK's nuclear stockpile stewardship programme and contribute to the ongoing review of warhead options announced in the 2006 White Paper—The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent (Cmd 6994). As was made clear in the White Paper, decisions on whether and how we may need to refurbish or replace our current warheads are likely to be made in the next Parliament and to inform these decisions we are undertaking a detailed review of the optimum life of the existing warhead stockpile and analysing the options that may be available.

In the interests of national security I am not prepared to discuss the detailed nature of these enhanced collaborations which commenced following an exchange of letters between Prime Minister Blair and President George W. Bush in December 2006.

TREASURY

Banks: Correspondence

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will *(a)* place in the Library and *(b)* post on his Department's website copies of his Department's correspondence with (i) chief executives, (ii) chairmen and (iii) other executives of (A) British and (B) foreign banks which have received financial support from the public purse since July 2008. [232156]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Coinage: Forgery

Mr. Chope: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many prosecutions were brought against forgers of £1 coins in each of the last five years; [233048]

(2) what guidance his Department and its agencies provide to consumers on how to identify whether a £1 pound coin is genuine or counterfeit; [233049]

(3) how many counterfeit £1 pound coins were removed from circulation in each of the last five years. [233099]

Angela Eagle: The Royal Mint includes information on ways that a counterfeit £1 coin might be identified on the 'Frequently Asked Questions' section of its website

www.royalmint.gov.uk/.

The following counterfeit £1 coins have been returned to the Royal Mint:

	Number
2003-04	85,500
2004-05	117,500
2005-06	84,500
2006-07	153,800
2007-08	97,000

The Royal Mint does not hold central data regarding the number of prosecutions brought against forgers of £1 pound coins.

The Metropolitan Police and the Serious Organised Crime Agency closed down an illicit Mint producing counterfeit £1 coins in December 2007. This resulted in a conviction and a sentence of five years imprisonment.

Corporation Tax

Stephen Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of private employers off-setting expenditure on training and trainee wages against their corporation tax liability. [232400]

Mr. Timms: Employers are allowed to deduct expenditure on training and trainee wages in computing their taxable profits. Estimates of the impact on corporation tax receipts are not available.

Departmental Television

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what premium Sky, digital terrestrial or cable television channels *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies subscribes to; and at what cost in the most recent year for which figures are available. [210847]

Angela Eagle: The following premium television channels were subscribed to in 2007-08:

			£000
	Sky	*Parliamentary TV*	*Select Committee TV*
HM Treasury[1]	21	2	40
Debt Management Office	2	0	0

[1] Sky subscription shared with the Office of Government Commerce

OGC.buyingsolutions do not subscribe to any premium television channels.

Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated monetary value of illicit drugs seized by HM Revenue and Customs was in each of the last 10 years. [232129]

Angela Eagle: The approximate values of illicit drugs seized by HM Customs and Excise and HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last 10 financial years are set out in the following table. Values for the financial years 1998-99 to 2004-05 inclusive relate to heroin and cocaine seizures only. HM Revenue and Customs central records do not hold information on the values of other drugs seized in those years.

	£ million
Financial year	*Value of illicit drugs seized*
1998-99	346
1999-2000	247
2000-01	625
2001-02	459
2002-03	617
2003-04	1,241
2004-05	528
2005-06	300
2006-07	285
2007-08	292

Excise Duties: Aviation

Ian Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what modelling has been undertaken in assessing the likely impact on the economic viability of the aviation industry of the introduction of aviation duty. [232255]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentlemen to the answer I gave to my hon. Friends, the Members for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer) and for Derby, North (Mr. Laxton) and to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 789-90W.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the rate of duty to apply to waste-derived fuel oil from 1 November 2008 on the complete recovery of waste oil to produce product equivalent fuel; [232245]

(2) pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1059, on excise duties: fuel oil, what considerations informed the Government's decision to *(a)* apply to the EU for an extension of the derogation from the Energy Products Directive and *(b)* apply a rate of 9.29 pence per litre to waste-derived fuel oil, rather than the 15 euros per 1,000 kilograms minimum required under the Energy Products Directive; [232246]

(3) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the likely annual tax revenue from the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to waste-derived fuel and *(b)* the likely annual administrative costs to the Government of the application of hydrocarbon oil duty to waste-derived fuel. [232247]

Angela Eagle: The Government have considered the effects of the rate of duty on the management of waste oil as a whole.

In applying for a renewal of the derogation on waste oil reused as fuel the Government were concerned about the impact of ending the derogation at a time when the future of the waste oil market was uncertain due to the introduction of the EC waste incineration directive and review of the EC waste framework directive. Also that the benefits to be gained from ending the derogation would be disproportionate to the compliance and administrative costs involved.

The UK is required to impose duty on waste oils reused as fuel and the duty rate to be applied is consistent with the relevant EU directive.

Our assessment of the revenue and administrative cost implications is set out in the "Impact Assessment of the implementation of the Energy Products Directive (EPD) on the use of waste oils reused as fuel", published on 20 February 2008.

Financial Services: Curriculum

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department of Children, Schools and Families and *(b)* Ofsted on Ofsted's evaluation of financial education as part of the preparation of the Joint Financial Capability Action Plan. [232383]

Ian Pearson: Ensuring that children have access to a planned and coherent programme of personal finance education in school is key to raising levels of financial capability in the UK. Studies by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) and Ofsted have shown that further support is required to improve the effectiveness of finance lessons in schools. The joint Government and FSA financial capability action plan, published in July, set out measures for supporting financial education through the Government's 'My Money' programme led by DCSF, which will help to embed financial capability into the curriculum, and the FSA's 'Learning Money Matters' programme. It also set out how financial education would be evaluated through a DCSF independent review and a further schools survey by the FSA.

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Ian Stewart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) plans to respond to the letter of 9 July sent from the hon. Member for Eccles to its offices at 100 Parliament Street concerning a constituent; and for what reasons HMRC have not responded to the hon. Member's answerphone messages. [232238]

Mr. Timms: The acting chief executive officer replied to the hon. Member on 29 October 2008 and apologised for the delay.

HMRC also very much regret the delay in replying to a message left by the hon. Member's office. HMRC have taken steps to ensure that such delays do not reoccur.

Landfill Tax

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether an impact assessment has been undertaken on the effects of the landfill tax escalator. [232687]

Angela Eagle: No impact assessment was undertaken on the effects of the landfill tax escalator. According to Government guidance, impact assessments are not required for changes to taxes or tax rates where there are no associated administrative costs or savings.

Low Incomes

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the guaranteed weekly income for working households of *(a)* a single individual, *(b)* a couple with no children, *(c)* a couple with (i) one, (ii) two and (iii) three children and *(d)* a single person with (A) one, (B) two and (C) three children was in (1) 1997 and (2) at the most recent date for which information is available. [232406]

Mr. Timms: Minimum income guarantees for in-work families have only existed since 1999, when they came into existence as a result of the introduction of the national minimum wage. Table 4.1 of the 2008 Budget document sets out the relevant figures for April 1999 and October 2008.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 802W, on taxation, what account was taken of the taxation criteria of *(a)* fairness, *(b)* proportionality, *(c)* public interest and *(d)* protecting of public revenue criteria for taxation in the Valuation Office Agency's decisions on retrospective application of business rates to ports; and if he will make a statement. [232710]

Mr. Timms: Valuation Officers apply statutory provisions which determine the effective date for any list alteration.

Police: Pensions

Mr. David Hamilton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions his Department has had with members of the Scottish Executive on the funding of changes to police pensions. [232497]

Yvette Cooper *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Treasury has discussions with the Scottish Executive from time to time on a number of issues. The Scottish Executive have recently announced changes which they plan to make to police pensions, funded out of their existing budget.

Tax Credit

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to paragraph 2.17 of his Department's document Tax Credits: improving delivery and choice, what the evidential basis is for the Exchequer cost of a fixed system being generally higher than that of a responsive system; and if he will make a statement. [232405]

Mr. Timms: Annex A of "Tax credits: improving delivery and choice—a discussion document", published by HM Treasury and HM Revenue and Customs in May 2008, and currently available on the Treasury website, examines in detail the issues surrounding a fixed system of tax credits.

Tax Credits

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households were overpaid tax credits in each year since 2003; how much was overpaid in tax credits in each of those years; and how much of that overpaid money was not recovered in each of those years. [232407]

Mr. Timms: Information on the number of families who incurred overpayments and on the total value of overpayments in 2003-04, 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 is provided in part 2, figure 9 of the report by the Comptroller and Auditor General, in the HM Revenue and Customs 2007-08 accounts. This is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/about/hmrc-dep-acct0708.pdf

Information relating to the recovery of these overpayments is provided in part 2, figure 11 of the same report.

Taxation: Carers

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's assessment of the proposal for tax-exempt care vouchers to help carers of adults remain in employment whilst balancing their caring responsibilities. [232448]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Financial Secretary, my right hon. Friend the Member for Liverpool, Wavertree (Jane Kennedy) gave on 26 November 2007, *Official Report*, column 128W.

Valuation Office

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2307W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Rightmove, what work was approved to identify cost-effective approaches to gathering more information. [232859]

Mr. Timms: Investigative work was undertaken to assess market coverage and to support the Agency's aims of (1) reducing further the numbers of visits to taxpayers' homes, (2) aiding the accuracy of bandings and (3) improving timeliness in dealing with taxpayers' queries.

Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2307W, on the Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems, whether the Agency or HM Revenue and Customs plans to publish an invitation to tender document for any of the project for the new system. [232962]

Mr. Timms: No. Four companies were invited to tender. The invitations to tender documents have not been published beyond the four companies, due to commercial sensitivities.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2307W, on the Valuation Office: Geographical Information Systems, what the timetable is for finalising the specification of the geographic information system. [232965]

Mr. Timms: The specification for the Valuation Office Agency's GIS will be finalised by December 2009.

JUSTICE

Community Orders: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community orders were issued to residents of *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years. [231937]

Maria Eagle: Data on community sentences (including the community order and other community sentences) are available by police force area and the following table shows the number of community sentences imposed by the courts in the Hertfordshire police force area 2002 to 2006. Data for 2007 will be available later in the year. Community sentence data are not made available for smaller areas because detailed checks on sentencing data are not carried out at court level.

Number of persons sentenced[1] to community sentences in Hertfordshire police force area, 2002 to 2006. England and Wales. Criminal justice area

	Hertfordshire police force area (Number of persons)
2002	2,709
2003	3,019
2004	3,363
2005	3,617
2006	3,716

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Crimes of Violence: Ex-servicemen

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many former members of the armed forces were taken into custody following a conviction for a violent offence in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [232294]

Mr. Hanson: We are unable to identify the occupation of an offender from the courts proceedings database. As such, we cannot tell the number of ex-service personnel that were convicted and sentenced to immediate custody for violent offences.

Data from nationally representative surveys of some 2000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent. 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Custody

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his policy is on the use of deferred commencement dates for custodial sentences; and if he will make a statement. [231617]

Maria Eagle: Where a court imposes a custodial sentence the offender is sent to prison immediately unless the court decides to suspend the sentence. We have no plans to introduce provisions to defer the commencement of custodial sentences.

Legal Aid Scheme

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the budget for civil legal aid was in each year since 2004. [231789]

Bridget Prentice: There is no set budget for civil legal aid. Civil legal aid is funded from the overall budget for legal aid which itself forms part of the Department's delegated expenditure (DEL). Funding for legal aid can be increased or decreased from within DEL according to need.

The following table shows the resource expenditure for the Community Legal Service covering civil, family, immigration and asylum work since 2004-05.

Community Legal Service expenditure

	Resource (£ million)
2004-05	624
2005-06	783
2006-07	788
2007-08	795

Marriage

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he is taking to ensure the rights of women are protected in the approval by English courts of *(a)* marriages and *(b)* divorces completed under Sharia law; [231857]

(2) what steps he is taking to ensure that English courts have the *(a)* resources and *(b)* expertise to exercise proper scrutiny of marriages and divorces completed under Sharia law which come before them; [231858]

(3) how many consent order forms were issued by his Department for approval by English courts of *(a)* marriages and *(b)* divorces completed under Sharia law in each of the last five years; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the necessary form; [231859]

(4) how many divorces completed under Sharia law and granted consent orders by English courts involved individuals under the age of 18 years in the last 10 years; [231860]

(5) how many marriages completed under Sharia law were referred to English courts for a consent order in each of the last five years; [231900]

(6) what estimate he has made of the number of marriages completed under Sharia law which were not referred to English courts for a consent order in each of the last five years; [231901]

(7) how many marriages completed under Sharia law were *(a)* granted and *(b)* denied consent orders by English courts in each of the last five years; [231902]

(8) how many marriages completed under Sharia law and granted a consent order by English courts involved individuals under the age of 18 years in the last 10 years; [231903]

(9) what estimate he has made of the number of divorces completed under Sharia law which were not referred to English courts for a consent order in each of the last five years; [231904]

(10) how many divorces completed under Sharia law were *(a)* granted and *(b)* denied consent orders by English courts in each of the last five years; [231905]

(11) how many divorces completed under Sharia law and granted consent orders by English courts were initiated by *(a)* women and *(b)* men in each of the last five years. [231906]

Mr. Straw: When a petition for divorce is lodged at a court the court requires information to ascertain that there was a valid marriage between the parties, and the grounds on which a divorce is sought. The religious affiliation of the parties is not included on divorce documents. Hence it is not possible to provide any statistics that relate to the parties' religion.

Marriages conducted in this country under Sharia law are not recognised in England and Wales unless they also comply with the provisions of the Marriage Acts. Therefore "Sharia marriages" are not a legal reality in this country and we cannot obtain statistics for them. We are aware that many Muslim couples undergo both a civil ceremony in a register office and a purely religious ceremony. The former is recognised but the latter is not. Increasing numbers of mosques are registered so that they can offer a joint civil and religious marriage ceremony. Section 55 of the Family Law Act 1986 allows parties to a marriage to apply for an order that their marriage is valid, or to allow "divorced" parties similarly to test the validity of their divorce. This provision is used rarely, and generally to test the validity of marriages contracted abroad and foreign divorces. A Sharia marriage contracted in this country which does not comply with Marriage Act requirements would not be validated.

"Sharia divorces" conducted in this country are also unrecognised by the legal system. The English courts do not approve divorces or annulments granted by any faith group, therefore no statistics are available for them. A Sharia divorce dissolves the religious "limb" of a marriage but leaves the civil marriage intact. This must be dissolved by a civil divorce. If no civil marriage has taken place then no civil divorce is required.

Consent orders differ widely according to what is required in each case. Therefore there is no standard form for a consent order. In a consent order relating to children the court can, among other things, make orders relating to contact, residence, a requirement that either parent do something or refrain from doing it, an order for expert reports or for contact activities or for review. In financial matters a court can deal with income, capital, pensions, assets and can, among others orders, make periodical payment, secured periodical payment, lump sum or property adjustment orders, pension sharing orders, and asset distribution orders.

The only orders that can be made during an extant marriage are an order for validity of marriage, as described above, or an order for judicial separation, which has similar effects to divorce save that the parties are still regarded as married, albeit legally separated. This type of order is usually used by those with a religious objection to divorce. Neither of these orders is likely to be made by consent.

Consent orders can be applied for following negotiations and an agreement reached by the parties directly, or with the help of lawyers, mediators, or a third party, which might be a Sharia council. Sharia councils operate under the statutory basis of the Arbitration Act 1996, established by the previous Government. The family court would be unable to tell whether an application for a consent order (whether within a divorce or in other proceedings) had been made as the result of negotiations conducted through a Sharia council, by the parties themselves, through mediation or by the intervention of any other third party. Applications for consent orders are generally filed by solicitors. In those circumstances the court can see whether the parties had the benefit of legal advice. However, even if lawyers have represented the parties, the court will still check consent orders to ensure that they appear to be within the range of orders that could be made had the matter been adjudicated in court.

There are many forms of alternative dispute resolution available to assist parties to reach an agreement in family cases, but whichever method the parties use; the principles applied by the court are the same. The court cannot simply 'rubber-stamp' an agreement in a family case, whatever the process by which the agreement has been reached, and judges can and do ask for further information where there is any doubt about the propriety of a proposed order.

Any proposed consent order submitted to the court, whether the product of an agreement by the Sharia council or not, might be made by coercion and it is the function of the judiciary to question any order which appears unfair.

An order which on its face involved an undue financial advantage to one party or set out arrangements for children which excluded care by or contact with one parent would be the sort of order which alerts a court to potential coercion and the need to ask for further information and, if appropriate, to refuse to make the order requested.

Court statistics do not include the ages of the parties at the time a consent order is made, although the information is available to the court when considering the terms of the order, and is one of the factors taken into account in making a decision as to the fairness or otherwise of an order. The Office for National Statistics' records show that between 1996 and 2005 only 18 women and no men under the age of 18 were divorced.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to the letter dated 19 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr. Abdoul Karim Barry. [231855]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the right hon. Member on 23 October 2008. I apologise for the delay.

Prison Service: Appeals

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many cases were considered by the Civil Service Appeal Board in regard to staff employed by HM Prison Service in each of the last five years. [232649]

(2) on how many occasions the Civil Service Appeal Board has recommended re-instatement or re-engagement of staff employed by HM Prison Service in each of the last five years; [232650]

(3) on how many occasions where the Civil Service Appeal Board has recommended reinstatement or re-engagement of staff employed by HM Prison Service the Prison Service decided not to accept the recommendation of the Board in each of the last five years; [232651]

(4) what the additional cost has been to the public purse of a decision by HM Prison Service not to accept the recommendation of the Civil Service Appeal Board to re-instate or re-engage a member of staff in each of the last five years; [232652]

(5) what the cost has been to the public purse, of applications to the Civil Service Appeal Board by staff employed by HM Prison Service in each of the last five years. [232653]

Mr. Malik: In the Prison Service, responsibility for defending cases at the Civil Service Appeal Board is devolved to a local level. Comprehensive records of the outcome of all Civil Service Appeal Board cases have only been maintained centrally since November 2007. Information on cases prior to that date can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

According to centrally held records, 64 cases were considered by the Civil Service Appeal Board in regard to staff employed by the public sector Prison Service between 1 November 2007 and 16 October 2008.

The Civil Service Appeal Board recommended reinstatement or re-engagement of public sector Prison Service staff in 14 cases between 1 November 2007 and 16 October 2008.

The public sector Prison Service decided not to accept the recommendation of the Civil Service Appeal Board in six cases where the Board had recommended reinstatement or re-engagement of staff between 1 November 2007 and 16 October 2008.

The sum of £40,820.00 was incurred in additional awards in those cases between 1 November 2007 and 16 October 2008 where the public sector HM Prison Service decided not to accept the recommendation of the Civil Service Appeal Board to reinstate or re-engage a member of staff.

The cost to the public purse, in terms of the compensation awarded following applications by staff employed by the public sector Prison Service to the Civil Service Appeal Board between 1 November 2007 and 16 October 2008 was £199,781.34.

Prisoners

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people serving custodial sentences for each type of offence of *(a)* less than one month, *(b)* between one and three months, *(c)* between three and six months and *(d)* between six and 12 months were in prison on average at any one time in each of the last 10 years. [232310]

Mr. Hanson: Figures showing the numbers of prisoners serving sentences in all prison establishments in England and Wales by offence group and in the sentence length bands requested can be found in the following table.

I refer also to the Offender Management Caseload Statistics, 2007, published on 30 October, copies of which have been placed in the House of Commons Library. This will provide additional context to the statistics supplied in the answer.

The breakdowns in the table for the years 2002-06 are further breakdowns of tables to be found in earlier editions of the Offender Management Caseload Statistics (table 8.12 for 2006) and Prison Statistics for England and Wales. Data are not available to provide equivalent further breakdowns for the years 1998 to 2001, and the statistics provided for these years are therefore taken from the annual published table in Prison Statistics for England and Wales.

The figures provided have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Immediate custodial sentenced population in prison establishments by sentence length and offence group

	All sentence lengths	*All within requested range*	*(a) Less than one month*	*(b) One month and less than three months*	*(c) Three months and less than six months*	*(d) Six months less than 12 months*
2007						
All	65,533	7,626	337	1,231	3,597	2,462
Violence against the person	17,616	1,458	54	209	767	428
Sexual offences	7,336	102	9	14	26	54
Robbery	8,747	264	41	53	88	81
Burglary	7,920	643	44	73	254	272
Theft and handling	3,706	1,720	73	303	819	526
Fraud and forgery	1,738	477	5	25	160	287
Drug offences	10,613	231	20	35	82	94
Motoring offences	1,404	891	8	109	587	187
Other offences	5,991	1,761	74	397	789	501
Offence not recorded	383	80	8	15	26	32
2006						
All	63,404	8,484	363	1,461	4,136	2,525
Violence against the person	16,215	1,608	66	257	862	423
Sexual offences	6,598	125	9	15	41	60
Robbery	8,415	215	37	37	67	75
Burglary	7,791	677	33	85	280	279
Theft and handling	4,125	2,077	71	398	996	611
Fraud and forgery	1,692	444	4	38	145	257
Drug offences	10,647	250	24	48	93	85
Motoring offences	1,920	1,305	9	190	879	227
Other offences	5,596	1,689	104	381	752	452
Offence not recorded	408	96	5	13	21	67
2005						
All	62,179	8,234	391	1,491	4,127	2,225
Violence against the person	15,178	1,571	57	281	846	386
Sexual offences	6,185	127	13	10	47	56
Robbery	8,378	179	35	30	63	51
Burglary	8,082	600	44	73	274	209
Theft and handling	4,126	1,977	81	441	924	531
Fraud and forgery	1,456	393	4	42	139	208
Drug offences	10,661	251	34	39	92	86
Motoring offences	2,163	1,472	12	229	1,052	179
Other offences	5,289	1,517	103	336	637	441
Offence not recorded	664	148	8	10	53	77

Immediate custodial sentenced population in prison establishments by sentence length and offence group

	All sentence lengths	*All within requested range*	*(a) Less than one month*	*(b) One month and less than three months*	*(c) Three months and less than six months*	*(d) Six months less than 12 months*
2004						
All	60,924	8,057	373	1,439	3,939	2,306
Violence against the person	13,974	1,406	81	234	696	395
Sexual offences	5,773	103	5	12	38	47
Robbery	8,448	184	29	39	62	54
Burglary	8,643	698	40	72	269	317
Theft and handling	4,404	2,046	87	431	922	607
Fraud and forgery	1,147	336	3	40	172	121
Drug offences	10,486	203	19	37	76	71
Motoring offences	2,403	1,619	19	277	1,140	184
Other offences	4,842	1,280	81	279	501	420
Offence not recorded	803	182	40	20	63	90
2003						
All	59,393	8,178	337	1,469	4,163	2,209
Violence against the person	12,986	1,156	58	204	581	313
Sexual offences	5,540	91	5	16	30	41
Robbery	8,286	180	36	45	48	51
Burglary	8,816	700	38	75	282	305
Theft and handling	4,651	2,292	84	457	1,114	637
Fraud and forgery	1,022	284	6	37	156	85
Drug offences	10,330	253	28	37	86	102
Motoring offences	2,689	2,000	22	351	1,362	265
Other offences	4,186	1,038	56	225	438	319
Offence not recorded	886	185	6	21	65	93
2002						
All	57,272	7,796	337	1,319	3,791	2,349
Violence against the person	12,212	1,079	45	162	511	362
Sexual offences	5,294	87	1	16	25	46
Robbery	7,522	214	48	38	58	71
Burglary	9,156	805	48	58	306	393
Theft and handling	4,739	2,299	94	461	1,077	667
Fraud and forgery	1,040	258	5	45	125	83
Drug offences	10,067	244	22	26	81	115
Motoring offences	2,259	1,674	17	293	1,140	225
Other offences	3,911	887	50	197	387	253
Offence not recorded	1,072	248	9	25	81	134

			Up to and including 3 months	*Over 3 months up to and including 6 months*	*Over 6 months less than 12 months*
2001					
All	54,169	8,542	2,428	3,958	2,156
Violence against the person	11,637	1,160	262	541	357
Rape	2,760	9	5	1	3
Other Sexual offences	2,304	72	9	30	33
Robbery	6,813	199	46	73	80
Burglary	8,515	765	106	299	360
Theft and handling	4,584	2,215	515	1,111	589
Fraud and forgery	1,020	283	59	145	79
Drug offences	9,068	262	73	92	97
Other offences	6,581	3,357	1,317	1,587	453
Offence not recorded	887	220	36	79	105
2000					
All	53,093	8,792	2,049	4,338	2,405
Violence against the person	11,217	1,162	288	553	321
Rape	2,702	12	9	3	0
Other Sexual offences	2,388	112	18	46	48
Robbery	6,353	193	54	74	65
Burglary	8,982	898	135	372	391

		[1]	*Up to and including 3 months*	*Over 3 months up to and including 6 months*	*Over 6 months less than 12 months*
Theft and handling	5,044	2,580	640	1,184	756
Fraud and forgery	1,016	282	69	127	86
Drug offences	8,473	324	78	117	129
Other offences	6,051	2,954	721	1,745	488
Offence not recorded	866	275	37	117	121
1999					
All	51,293	7,380	1,650	3,540	2,190
Violence against the person	10,858	1,006	214	460	332
Rape	2,576	0	0	0	0
Other Sexual offences	2,370	122	9	38	75
Robbery	6,331	86	14	39	33
Burglary	8,780	791	97	334	360
Theft and handling	4,411	2,068	529	945	594
Fraud and forgery	1,104	283	44	142	97
Drug offences	8,169	279	45	100	134
Other offences	5,398	2,538	669	1,416	453
Offence not recorded	1,296	207	29	66	112
1998					
All	52,159	7,610	1,500	3,599	2,511
Violence against the person	10,944	1,049	217	504	328
Rape	2,373	0	0	0	0
Other Sexual offences	2,422	124	13	53	56
Robbery	6,626	117	16	53	48
Burglary	8,656	770	101	287	382
Theft and handling	4,492	1,928	389	895	644
Fraud and forgery	1,199	321	59	130	132
Drug offences	7,893	409	41	157	211
Other offences	5,425	2,555	631	1,390	534
Offence not recorded	2,129	336	33	128	175

[1] Data unavailable to provide further breakdown

Prisoners Release

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders were released on licence from prisons in England and Wales having served less than half of their custodial sentence in the latest period for which figures are available. [232244]

Mr. Straw: In 2007, 11,428 prisoners were released earlier than their halfway point of sentence subject to licence conditions on the Home Detention Curfew Scheme and 16,197 prisoners were released under temporary licence on the End of Custody Licence scheme.

The Offender Caseload statistics for 2007 were published on 30 October 2008 and are available on the Ministry of Justice website and in the Library of the House.

Prisoners: Nationality

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of *(a)* foreign national prisoners and *(b)* prisoners of unknown nationality there were in each prison in England and Wales on 1 October 2008. [231574]

Mr. Hanson: The following table indicates the numbers of prisoners who are recorded as being *(a)* foreign national and *(b)* nationality not yet recorded in all prison establishments in England and Wales as at 30 September 2008. Although nationality may not yet be recorded in certain instances, this is not indicative of where nationality is unknown. Relevant checks with other Government Departments are conducted as appropriate in order to ascertain further details.

	Foreign nationals in establishment	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*	*Nationality not recorded in establishment*	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*
Male				
Acklington	28	3	0	0
Albany	60	11	7	1
Altcourse	95	8	15	1
Ashfield	27	7	6	2
Ashwell	65	11	1	0
Aylesbury	61	14	0	0
Bedford	93	19	4	1

	Foreign nationals in establishment	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*	*Nationality not recorded in establishment*	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*
Belmarsh	193	21	17	2
Birmingham	189	13	32	2
Blantyre House	2	2	1	1
Blundeston	91	18	0	0
Brinsford	45	8	0	0
Bristol	55	9	7	1
Brixton	225	28	16	2
Buckley Hall	19	5	0	0
Bullingdon	153	15	7	1
Bullwood Hall	194	93	0	0
Camp Hill	91	16	34	6
Canterbury	281	97	1	0
Cardiff	74	9	8	1
Castington	15	4	2	1
Channings Wood	44	6	0	0
Chelmsford	114	16	20	3
Coldingley	55	14	3	1
Cookham Wood	5	10	0	0
Dartmoor	29	5	0	0
Deerbolt	12	3	1	0
Doncaster	110	10	53	5
Dorchester	24	10	5	2
Dovegate	107	13	1	0
Dover	298	99	3	1
Durham	76	8	6	1
Edmunds Hill	82	23	0	0
Elmley	145	15	20	2
Erlestoke	54	12	0	0
Everthorpe	35	5	0	0
Exeter	36	7	6	1
Featherstone	70	10	1	0
Feltham	147	23	30	5
Ford	66	12	1	0
Forest Bank	84	7	25	2
Frankland	39	5	2	0
Full Sutton	57	10	0	0
Garth	59	7	1	0
Gartree	44	8	0	0
Glen Parva	60	9	3	0
Gloucester	20	6	13	4
Grendon/Spring Hill	20	4	0	0
Guys Marsh	51	9	0	0
Haslar	160	100	1	1
Haverigg	23	4	0	0
Hewell	200	16	5	0
High Down	229	21	36	3
Highpoint	176	22	3	0
Hindley	15	3	4	1
Hollesley Bay	12	4	0	0
Holme House	44	4	3	0
Hull	47	5	5	0
Huntercombe	58	17	6	2
Kennet	23	7	0	0
Kingston (Portsmouth)	17	9	0	0
Kirkham	8	1	0	0
Kirklevington Grange	0	0	0	0
Lancaster Castle	5	2	0	0
Lancaster Farms	19	4	11	2
Latchmere House	9	5	0	0
Leeds	84	9	6	1
Leicester	62	17	7	2
Lewes	73	11	7	1
Leyhill	37	8	0	0
Lincoln	67	9	9	1

	Foreign nationals in establishment	As a percentage of total population in establishment	Nationality not recorded in establishment	As a percentage of total population in establishment
Lindholme	162	15	46	4
Littlehey	119	16	0	0
Liverpool	116	8	10	1
Long Lartin	67	15	0	0
Lowdham Grange	104	15	2	0
Maidstone	96	20	1	0
Manchester	197	16	43	4
Moorland Open	6	2	0	0
Moorland Closed	41	5	0	0
North Sea Camp	16	5	1	0
Northallerton	5	2	0	0
Norwich	63	12	8	1
Nottingham	73	13	14	3
Onley	55	10	4	1
Pare	45	4	5	0
Parkhurst	80	16	6	1
Pentonville	327	29	30	3
Peterborough	104	17	18	3
Portland	77	13	3	0
Preston	33	4	5	1
Ranby	100	9	2	0
Reading	14	5	4	2
Risley	73	7	0	0
Rochester	79	17	0	0
Rye Hill	135	21	0	0
Shepton Mallet	5	3	0	0
Shrewsbury	39	13	3	1
Stafford	71	10	0	0
Standford Hill	42	9	1	0
Stocken	74	9	2	0
Stoke Heath	17	3	3	0
Sudbury	16	3	0	0
Swaleside	151	20	1	0
Swansea	36	9	3	1
Swinfen Hall	46	7	1	0
The Mount	219	29	3	0
The Verne	359	61	0	0
The Wolds	18	5	0	0
Thorn Cross	1	0	1	0
Usk/Prescoed	17	4	0	0
Wakefield	55	7	2	0
Wandsworth	478	29	89	5
Warren Hill	12	6	15	7
Wayland	134	13	5	0
Wealstun	33	6	1	0
Wellingborough	95	15	1	0
Werrington	7	5	7	5
Wetherby	5	2	6	2
Whatton	70	8	0	0
Whitemoor	66	15	3	1
Winchester	62	11	2	0
Woodhill	114	14	21	3
Wormwood Scrubs	457	36	20	2
Wymott	60	6	0	0
Female				
Askham Grange	3	3	8	0
Bronzefield	103	25	49	12
Downview	73	20	1	0
Drake Hall	50	20	1	0
East Sutton Park	8	9	0	0
Eastwood Park	41	13	2	1
Foston Hall	16	7	3	1

	Foreign nationals in establishment	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*	*Nationality not recorded in establishment*	*As a percentage of total population in establishment*
Holloway	126	26	17	4
Low Newton	22	7	0	0
Morton Hail	235	68	0	0
New Hall	41	10	7	2
Peterborough	57	16	10	3
Send	38	14	1	0
Styal	35	8	5	1
Total	11,168	13	944	1

Population data were published on the Ministry of Justice website on 31 October 2008 in line with standard practice:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/populationincustody.htm

This information is updated quarterly.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer he was given on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1235W.

These figures include prisoners held on remand or serving custodial sentences, as well as those held under the Immigration Act 1971 (including those in the immigration removal centres of Dover, Haslar and Lindholme).

In September's data around 77 per cent. of prisoners for whom nationality is unrecorded are remand prisoners. Unrecorded nationalities account for 1 per cent. of the overall population.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Repossession Orders: Mortgages

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* immediate and *(b)* suspended orders for possession have been made in mortgage repossession proceedings in each region in each of the last five years. [231556]

Bridget Prentice: The following table shows the numbers of outright and suspended orders made for mortgage possession in each region in England and Wales since 2003.

These figures do not indicate how many houses have been repossessed through the courts, since not all the orders will have resulted in the issue and execution of warrants of possession.

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders[2] made in HM Courts Service regions, and in England and Wales

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Suspended orders						
London	3,252	3,996	6,489	6,914	6,129	26,780
Midlands	4,705	5,222	7,174	8,585	8,968	34,654
North East	3,579	3,687	5,360	6,967	7,009	26,602
North West	4,003	3,805	5,043	6,714	7,179	26,744
South East	4,933	5,759	8,174	8,647	8,000	35,513
South West	2,305	2,593	3,750	4,114	3,757	16,519
Wales	1,729	1,527	2,156	2,700	2,991	11,103
England and Wales	24,506	26,589	38,146	44,641	44,033	177,915
Outright orders						
London	2,742	3,792	6,621	8,298	7,945	29,398
Midlands	2,936	3,715	5,943	8,816	10,069	31,479
North East	2,427	2,549	4,279	6,643	8,043	23,941
North West	2,635	2,687	4,072	6,499	7,890	23,783
South East	3,268	4,291	7,046	9,046	9,824	33,475
South West	1,425	1,940	3,068	4,001	4,421	14,855
Wales	1,099	1,120	1,789	2,736	3,208	9,952
England and Wales	16,532	20,094	32,818	46,039	51,400	166,883
All orders						
London	5,994	7,788	13,110	15,212	14,074	56,178
Midlands	7,641	8,937	13,117	17,401	19,037	66,133
North East	6,006	6,236	9,639	13,610	15,052	50,543
North West	6,638	6,492	9,115	13,213	15,069	50,527
South East	8,201	10,050	15,220	17,693	17,824	68,988
South West	3,730	4,533	6,818	8,115	8,178	31,374

Number of mortgage[1] possession orders[2] made in HM Courts Service regions, and in England and Wales

	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Total*
Wales	2,828	2,647	3,945	5,436	6,199	21,055
England and Wales	41,038	46,683	70,964	90,680	95,433	344,798

[1] Mortgage possession data include all types of lenders whether local authority or private.

[2] The court, following a judicial hearing, may grant an order for possession immediately. This entitles the claimant to apply for a warrant to have the defendant evicted. However, even where a warrant for possession is issued, the parties can still negotiate a compromise to prevent eviction.

Notes:

1. Includes suspended orders and orders made.
2. Does not include the small number of possession actions entered in the High Court.

Source:

Ministry of Justice

Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to introduce restorative justice in relation to shoplifting offences. [231640]

Mr. Straw: Restorative justice can be used in relation to shoplifting offences. It is for local criminal justice boards and local criminal justice agencies to consider how best to use their funding to meet their targets and local needs. Restorative justice, for a variety of offences, is an established part of the work of youth offending teams and a number of areas have established schemes to deliver adult restorative justice. Where a scheme is available, its use in relation to a given case should depend on whether the victim chooses to participate and, where appropriate, the sentence of the court.

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per day were spent by inmates *(a)* in cell and *(b)* out of cell in each young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [232186]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not record the time prisoners spend in or out of their cells but does measure the time cells are unlocked. The following table shows the average time unlocked per prisoner per weekday, in all young offenders institutions across England and Wales between April and September 2008. Data are provisional and subject to validation.

Average time unlocked per prisoner per weekday

Prison	*Average time unlocked per prisoner per weekday*
Ashfield	9.7
Aylesbury	7.0
Brinsford	[1]—
Castington	8.8
Cookham Wood	18.6
Deerbolt	7.0
Feltham	9.5
Glen Parva	8.3
Hindley	9.2
Huntercombe	6.6
Lancaster Farms	7.8
Northallerton	7.6
Portland	7.9
Reading	7.5
Rochester	7.6
Stoke Heath	8.5
Swinfen Hall	7.8
Thorn Cross	12.5
Warren Hill	9.7
Wellington	10.1
Wetherby	10.7

[1] Data not available

Young Offender Institutions: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what rehabilitation programmes are available for drug users in young offender institutions. [232187]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) has in place a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised models of care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers in prisons and young offenders institutions (YOIs). The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

The interventions available include:

Clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing);

CARATs (Counselling, Assessment, Referral, Advice and Throughcare services)—CARATs are available in all YOIs in England and Wales;

Drug rehabilitation programmes—young adult offenders in the estate have access to the following programmes:

Short Duration Programme

P-ASRO (prisons Addressing Substance Related Offending)

Therapeutic Communities (young females in 1 establishment)

Young People's Substance Misuse Service (YPSMS)—a non-clinical service for those under the age of 18 in custody in England and Wales, combining education and prevention with treatment.

Prison drug treatment funding has increased year on year since 1996-97—up 1,179 per cent., with record numbers engaging in treatment.

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what educational opportunities are available for young offenders aged *(a)* 16 to 18 and *(b)* 18 to 21 years old in young offender institutions. [232184]

Mr. Hanson: The educational opportunities available to offenders in young offender institutions (YOIs) is specified by the Learning and Skills Council in both an offenders' learning journey for under 18s and an offenders' learnings journey for adults. For under 18s this includes literacy, language and numeracy, information and communications technology (ICT), continuity of mainstream education, vocational training in a range of subjects and physical education. For adults, the specified curriculum includes literacy, language and numeracy, ICT and work-related learning.

Young Offenders: Employment

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many young offenders found full or part-time employment within one month of release from custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [232180]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service does not record whether an offender has found full or part-time employment within a month of release from custody. However, it does record whether an offender has full or part-time employment on release. During the period April to September 2008 (latest figures available[1]) the total number of prisoners with employment upon release from young offender institutions (YOIs) was 1,263.

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

Young Offenders: Literacy

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders in custody were unable to read or write *(a)* on admission and *(b)* on release in the latest period for which figures are available. [232185]

Mr. Hanson: All young offenders under the age of 18 are assessed. Young offenders over the age of 18 are only assessed where basic skills screening indicates a literacy or numeracy deficiency and they have been referred to a learning provider.

In the academic year 2007-08 there were a total of 7,329 learning and skills assessments carried out in young offender institutions (YOIs). 24 per cent. of those assessments showed literacy levels below level 1 with numeracy below level 1 at 33 per cent. In the same period 1,388 qualifications were achieved below level 1, 1,813 qualifications at level 1 and 771 were achieved at level 2. Assessment of individuals was not carried out on release from custody and information is not available centrally.

Young Offenders: Prisoners Release

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders went to *(a)* housing provided by a family member, *(b)* housing provided by a local authority or other statutory provider, *(c)* housing provided by a charity and *(d)* an address unknown to the authorities following release from custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [232181]

Mr. Hanson: Currently suitable accommodation after custody is a key element in the Government's Youth Crime Action Plan and we have been consulting on how we can increase young offender's access to this resource. The responses to the consultation will inform future policy in this area. There is also a National Indicator 46, 'Young offenders' access to suitable accommodation', which will encourage local authorities to support this aim. This information is not collected centrally.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders were released from custody into full or part-time education in the latest period for which figures are available. [232183]

Mr. Hanson: The percentage of prisoners released from custody into full or part-time education from young offender institutions (YOIs) was 27.8 per cent. for the period April to September 2008, the latest figures available[1].

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

Young People: Custodial Treatment

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he expects the independent review of prisoner escort and custody services-commissioned escorts for young people, commissioned by the Youth Justice Board to be published. [231249]

Mr. Hanson: The Youth Justice Board has commissioned a research report to assist with planning of escorting arrangements in the secure estate for children and young people. The purpose of the report is to aid internal decision-making and the board has no plans to publish it.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Overseas Aid

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy not to allocate aid and assistance to countries which operate space programmes. [233098]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) policy on providing aid is set out in the UK Government's 2006 White Paper. This is available online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/wp2006/default.asp

DFID concentrates its development assistance on countries with the largest numbers of poor people and on fragile states. When then deciding whether to use aid to support a country's Government, DFID undertakes a detailed assessment of that Government's commitment to: reducing poverty; upholding human rights; and improving public financial management.

When assessing a Government's commitment to reducing poverty the composition of their public expenditure programme is viewed as a whole. It would not be appropriate to make that assessment based solely on whether they include or exclude specific expenditures.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government have provided to Rwanda in each of the last three years. [233183]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have provided the following amounts of aid to Rwanda during the last three years:

	£
2005	29,325,834
2006	51,298,863
2007	47,204,899

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Civil Servants: Career Structure

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what records his Department maintains on the number of civil servants who are *(a)* on the Priority Movers List, *(b)* part of the Priority Talent Pool, *(c)* part of the Career Support Network and *(d)* part of the Redeployment Network in each Government agency and Department; [191089]

(2) how many permanent staff of *(a)* the Cabinet Office and *(b)* the Central Office of Information are not assigned to a permanent post; [211110]

(3) how many permanent staff within Downing street are classed as *(a)* staff without posts and *(b)* part of a people action team. [210865]

Mr. Watson: Individual Departments maintain their own records of staff temporarily without a permanent post. These staff are managed actively in accordance with departmental policy and taking into account cross-civil service protocols on the handling of surplus staff.

As at 30 April 2008 there were 17 permanent Cabinet Office employees without a permanent role and none in the Central Office of Information. The Cabinet Office runs a brokerage service to ensure that staff without permanent roles are assigned to project or interim work while they are supported to find a suitable permanent role.

Civil Servants: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what estimate he has made of the annual change in the cost to the public purse arising from the recent changes to civil service pensions; and if he will make a statement. [229487]

(2) what estimate he has made of the annual savings accruing to the public purse as a result of the introduction of a career average pension scheme within the civil service pension scheme. [229872]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by my hon. Friend the then Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Gillian Merron) on 26 July 2007, *Official Report,* column 105WS, which gave details of the package of civil service pension reform. The impact to date of the introduction of the nuvos scheme on the overall membership of the civil service pension scheme, and on overall costs, is limited. However, the scheme actuary has estimated long-term annual savings in employer contributions at 1.2 per cent. of the total pensionable payroll (the total pensionable payroll is currently around £14 billion).

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many civil servants will receive payments from the civil service pension scheme in 2008-09. [231289]

Mr. Watson: Details of benefits payable under the principal civil service pension scheme will be included in the Cabinet Office: Civil Superannuation Resource Accounts 2008-09, expected to be published shortly before the summer recess.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [231498]

Mr. Watson: 10 full-time equivalent press officers currently work and provide assistance for the Cabinet Office.

Departmental Public Participation

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many postcards were issued by his Department as part of public policy consultations in each of the last five years; and how many responses were received in each year. [229731]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office uses a range of methods to engage with the public, including online surveys and information leaflets. The information requested is not held centrally and can be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

However, 1,479 postcards were sent out at the outset of the Crime and Communities consultation to stakeholders who had been involved with addressing crime and antisocial behaviour in their neighbourhoods. 399 responses were received.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what contracts *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agency has with EDF; and how much (i) his Department and (ii) its agency paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221851]

Mr. Watson: The Cabinet Office does not have any energy contracts directly with EDF.

Since 2002 the Cabinet Office has procured its electricity and gas supply from facilities management providers who tender competitively. In 2007-08 the Cabinet Office procured for 70 Whitehall an additional electrical transformer to avoid overloading the original at a cost of £150,000 plus VAT from the distribution network operator EDF Energy.

From 1998 to 2002 the Cabinet Office procured its energy from various suppliers including London Electricity (wholly owned by EDF Energy). Information for this period can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Departments: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what public-facing IP addresses are used by the Government Secure Intranet. [233306]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The information is as follows.

GSi Gateway

62.25.106.196
62.25.106.208
62.25.106.209
62.25.106.210
195.92.40.36
195.92.40.48
195.92.40.49
195.92.40.50

GSi SIG

62.25.109.193
195.92.206.241
212.137.36.226
62.25.109.194
195.92.206.242
212.137.36.227
62.25.109.195
195.92.206.243
212.137.36.228
62.25.109.196
195.92.206.244
212.137.36.229
62.25.109.197
195.92.206.245
212.137.36.230
62.25.109.198
195.92.206.246
212.137.36.231
62.25.109.199
195.92.206.247
212.137.36.232
62.25.109.202
195.92.206.250
212.137.36.235

GCSx

212.137.70.225
62.25.105.45

Parliamentary Counsel Office: Manpower

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many staff are employed by the Parliamentary Counsel Office on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis; and how many such staff were employed on 1 January (i) 2007 and (ii) 2008. [231783]

Mr. Watson: As at the end of September 2008 there were 83 people employed in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel. This equated to 79.91 full-time equivalents.

87 people were employed in the Office of the Parliamentary Counsel as at 1 January 2007. This equated to 84.42 full-time equivalents. 82 people were employed in the Office as at 1 January 2008. This equated to 81.5 full-time equivalents.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much the Cabinet Office has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231236]

Mr. Watson: Management units across the Department arrange training to fulfil local skills needs—including for the use of plain English—with a wide range of external training providers.

Detailed information relating to training activity used by management units is not held centrally by the Department, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Voluntary Work: Young People

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent steps the Government have taken to encourage children and young people to volunteer. [232524]

Kevin Brennan: As outlined in the Third Sector Review, the Government are investing £117 million in youth volunteering through v from 2008 to 2011. This is the biggest ever investment in youth volunteering, and v has so far created around 750,000 volunteering opportunities.

The Office of the Third Sector has also provided funding in this financial year to the following organisations that provide or promote youth volunteering opportunities: Youthnet UK (£472,800), National Youth Agency (£315,200), Youth Action Network (£157,600) and the British Youth Council (£94,600).

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Architects Registration Board: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding her Department has given to the Architects Registration Board in each of the last three years. [232682]

Margaret Beckett: None. The Architects Registration Board is funded by the registration fees paid annually by architects in the UK.

Beacon Council Advisory Panel

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* responsibilities are and *(b)* budget is of the Advisory Panel on Beacon Councils. [233261]

John Healey: The Independent Advisory Panel for the Beacon Scheme (constituted as a non-departmental public body) advises Ministers on the themes, the criteria for assessment and the award of Beacon status. The panel receives secretariat support, from the Improvement and Development Agency (IdeA). For 2008-09, the forecast is that the direct costs of administering the panel will be around £167,000.

Community Allowance

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the piloting of community allowances, as referred to in the Communities in Control White Paper. [231486]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

We have always made clear that the CREATE consortium will be able to pilot the community allowance within the existing benefits and permitted work structure. We would want to see a full evaluation of the allowance and the impact on improving benefit claimants' chances of moving into work before we considered whether to introduce it more widely.

Community Relations: Islam

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps her Department has taken to implement Recommendation 12 of the Preventing Extremism Together report of 2005 concerning the development of Muslim beacon centres around the UK at the heart of Muslim geographic concentrations. [232654]

Mr. Khan: Progress has been made in implementing 49 of the 64 recommendations in the 2005 'Preventing Extremism Together' (PET). Of the 27 that were for Government to take forward, 22 have been either completed, are under way or are being taken forward as part of other work on preventing violent extremism. Outstanding actions are being taken forward as part of the overall cross-Government Prevent strategy.

This recommendation, referring to the development of Muslim beacon centres around the UK at the heart of Muslim geographic concentrations was for Muslim communities to take forward. We remain open to the consideration of any requests for Government support in this area.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on what dates her Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to her Department or its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last five years. [232737]

Mr. Khan: Since 2003-04 the House has been informed twice yearly of the Department's and its predecessors' contingent liabilities. These were reported separately through their Main Supply Estimates and their Resource Accounts.

The Main Supply Estimates were published in April or May of each year. In 2007-08, the Department's Winter and Spring Supplementary Estimates also reported on contingent liabilities. They were published on 15 November 2007 and 20 February 2008 respectively.

The Resource Accounts were published on the dates set out in the table:

Department	*Financial Year*	*Publication dates*
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	Resource Accounts 2003-04	24 November 2004
Office of the Deputy Prime. Minister	Resource Accounts 2004-05	20 July 2005
Office of the Deputy Prime Minister	Resource Accounts 2005-06	25 July 2006
Communities and Local Government	Resource Accounts 2006-07	12 July 2007
Communities and Local Government	Resource Accounts 2007-08	21 July 2008

Elderly

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her estimate is of the number of over-80s households in *(a)* Eastbourne, *(b)* East Sussex and *(c)* the UK in the 2008-09 fiscal year. [231831]

Margaret Beckett: The following table shows the projected number of over-80s households in Eastbourne, East Sussex and England for mid-2008:

Over-80s households, 2008

	Number (Thousand)
Eastbourne	5
East Sussex	35
England	1,690

The figures are from the Communities and Local Government Household Projections (revised 2004-based). These provide figures for England only.

Fire Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local fire authorities have signed up to the FireGuard contract; and if she will make a statement. [232429]

Mr. Khan: FireGuard is a collaborative procurement between 33 fire and rescue authorities to provide back-up emergency cover. We understand that no authority is currently signed up to the contract.

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangement has been made for the provision of fire cover in periods of industrial action in the absence of FireGuard; and which organisations will provide that cover. [232637]

Mr. Khan: The provision of fire cover during periods of industrial action is the responsibility of fire and rescue authorities. It is for them to determine the level of emergency cover they regard as appropriate.

Fire Services: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average payment per person to members of the fire service pension scheme was in 2008. [232833]

Mr. Khan: According to figures submitted by fire and rescue authorities, the average payment per pensioner in 2007-08 was approximately £11,200.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of active members in the firefighters' pension scheme joined on or after 6 April 2006; and what projections she has made of how this figure will change over time. [233132]

Mr. Khan: In 2007-08, of the 34,700 active members of the firefighters' pension schemes, 5,700 (16.4 per cent.) were members of the new firefighters' pension scheme 2006 which came into operation on 6 April 2006. The firefighters' pension scheme 1992 was closed to new members at that point.

It is estimated that 1,500 regular and retained firefighters will join the NFPS each year.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will suspend the requirement for a home information pack to be procured by those selling property in order to stimulate the housing market; and if she will make a statement. [232605]

Margaret Beckett: There is no evidence to show that home information packs are contributing to the current problems with the housing market, and we have no plans to suspend them.

Housing: Evictions

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many housing benefit claimants have been *(a)* evicted and *(b)* deemed intentionally homeless as a result of rent arrears in each of the last three years. [229367]

Kitty Ussher: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available.

Housing: Low Incomes

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment she has made of the health and safety risk to social housing tenants caused by equipment installed for the purposes of illegal radio broadcasts. [232150]

Margaret Beckett: We have not made any assessment of the health and safety risk to social housing tenants caused by equipment installed for the purposes of illegal radio broadcasts.

Ofcom has extensive powers to prosecute those making illegal radio broadcasts.

Housing: Regeneration

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) which local authorities took part in the first wave of the housing market renewal projects; and which authorities have expressed the intention of taking part in the second wave; [232681]

(2) how much has been allocated to the second phase housing market renewal project area. [232683]

Margaret Beckett: The Housing Market Renewal pathfinder programme was established in 2003, with nine areas chosen for intervention, comprising the following 26 local authorities:

Birmingham/Sandwell:

Birmingham city council; Sandwell MBC

East Lancashire:

Lancashire county council, Blackburn with Darwen borough council, Burnley borough council, Hyndburn borough council, Pendle borough council, Rossendale borough council

Hull and East Riding:

Hull city council, East Riding of Yorkshire council

Manchester/Salford:

Manchester city council; Salford city council

Merseyside:

Liverpool city council; Sefton MBC; Wirral MBC

Newcastle/Gateshead:

Newcastle city council; Gateshead MBC

North Staffordshire:

Stoke-on-Trent city council; Newcastle under Lyme borough council; Staffordshire Moorlands district council

Oldham/Rochdale:

Oldham MBC; Rochdale MBC

South Yorkshire:

Sheffield city council; Barnsley MBC; Doncaster MBC; Rotherham MBC

Three areas of wider low demand were added to the programme in 2005:

Tees Valley:

Hartlepool borough council; Middlesbrough council; Redcar and Cleveland borough council; Stockton-on-Tees borough council

West Cumbria:

Cumbria county council; Allerdale district council; Barrow district council; Copeland district council

West Yorkshire:

Bradford city council; Kirklees MBC; Leeds city council; Wakefield MBC

Funding for the period 2008 to 2011 was announced on 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 83WS. This covers the authorities as listed, with the exception of West Yorkshire, where funding for the South East Wakefield area of West Yorkshire is to be channelled through the South Yorkshire pathfinder.

Housing: Sales

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of failed home sales in England and Wales in each of the last eight quarters. [232759]

Margaret Beckett: The latest estimate of the level of failed property transactions was made as part of the 2006 HIPs baseline research published in January 2007. This research estimated that 23 per cent. of buyers with completed transactions had previously had a failed transaction during their current house-buying experience.

The report is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/housing/hipbaselineresearch

Local Authorities: Bank Services

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans she has to issue guidance to local authorities with funds frozen in Icelandic banks on the appropriate level of any write-off of affected funds. [232229]

John Healey: The Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) will be publishing professional advice to local authorities about the accounting aspects of the current situation and the factors they need to take into account in setting their budgets for 2009-10.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance her Department issued to councils which signified in September 2008 their intention to *(a)* place deposits in overseas banks and *(b)* invest in overseas funds. [233054]

John Healey: It is a matter for local authorities to determine their own investment policies, within Government guidance to local authorities on investments, which was issued in 2004 following the 2003 Local Government Act. This emphasises that priority should be given to the security and liquidity of invested funds. The guidance is available at:

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/capital/data/guidlocal.pdf

Local Better Regulation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the Local Better Regulation Office will be able to designate itself as a primary authority and instruct councils to take enforcement action. [229729]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The Local Better Regulation Office (LBRO) cannot nominate itself for the role of primary authority. LBRO may give directions in relation to enforcement action, but in limited circumstances. Where a proposed enforcement action has been referred to LBRO, and it confirms a primary authority's view that what is proposed is inconsistent with advice that the business has given, LBRO may direct the enforcing authority to take alternative action.

Local Government: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what correspondence she has had with Gloucestershire county council on unitary authority status; and if she will publish it. [231563]

John Healey: Gloucestershire county council did not respond to the our "Invitation to Councils", issued in October 2006, to submit unitary proposals and our records show no correspondence with the county council about unitary authority status, other than a freedom of information request in 2006 for information about representations received on the unitary issue. The information requested was provided.

Local Government: Reorganisation

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government by what means the process for an area to move from two-tier to unitary local authorities can be initiated. [231562]

John Healey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 13 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 583W.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will bring forward proposals to provide compensation for single property mortgage holders who are in negative equity. [232153]

Margaret Beckett: Government are working actively with key stakeholders to provide support to homeowners during this period of unprecedented market turmoil. There are no plans to provide compensation for households experiencing negative equity. However, Government are already taking action to provide support for households affected by current market conditions through a mortgage rescue scheme targeted at the most vulnerable households, expanded provision of debt advice and increased support for homeowners who lose their jobs. Government continue to explore options to provide additional support.

Mortgages: Repossession Orders

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* she and *(b)* the Minister for Housing has held with (i) the Secretary of State for Justice and (ii) the Chief Secretary to the Treasury in respect of the rate of use of charging orders by banks (A) nationalised and (B) in receipt of capitalisation by public money, resulting in the repossession of homes of people unable to keep up mortgage payments; and if she will review the application of such charging orders. [232175]

Margaret Beckett: Ministers have meetings with a wide range of organisations and individuals on a wide range of subjects. Information relating to internal meetings, discussion and advice is not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has had from the Citizens Advice Bureaux in respect of mortgage holders facing repossession of their homes by banks or building societies when difficulties arise with mortgage payments. [232176]

Margaret Beckett: Government are working closely with a range of stakeholders—including the Citizens Advice Bureaux—to help vulnerable households in financial difficulty and facing repossession remain in their homes wherever possible. We are concerned about recent data released from CAB which show a 51 per cent. increase in new mortgage and secured loan inquiries for the period July to September 2008 compared with the same period in 2007. That is why Government are taking urgent action to support vulnerable homeowners during these difficult times.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department holds on the number of housing repossessions which took place as a percentage of the total mortgage book of the UK's top 10 mortgage providers in the last 12 months. [232514]

Margaret Beckett: Communities and Local Government does not collect or hold such data. The Council of Mortgage Lenders (CML) publishes figures on mortgage arrears and repossessions on a quarterly basis drawn from a representative sample of UK lenders covering around 95 per cent. of balances. CML does not publish sectoral data.

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to ensure that banks take into account the tenancy rights of tenants whose landlord has a buy-to-let mortgage before making application for repossession of the property. [232572]

Margaret Beckett: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Member for Hartlepool (Mr. Wright) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1292W.

Neighbourhood Management Programme

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department has budgeted for neighbourhood management pathfinders in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [233264]

John Healey: Funding for neighbourhood management pathfinders now forms part of the un-ringfenced area based grant. The allocation for 2008-09 is £10.7 million; proposed allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11 are £5.1 million and £4.9 million respectively. 2008-09 is the final year of funding for the first round of pathfinders; the 2009-11 figures therefore represent funding for the second round pathfinders only.

Regional Development Agencies

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects are funded by her Department through regional development agencies; and what the budget of each is for 2008-09. [233263]

Mr. Khan: My Department does not fund projects through regional development agencies directly. Regional development agencies are funded through the Single Programme, which is administered by their sponsor Department, the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. CLG is one of six contributing Departments to the Single Programme and is contributing £1.548 billion to the Single Programme for 2008-09. Spending priorities for each regional development agency are set out in their corporate plans, which are available on their websites.

Allocations for 2008-09 are set out in the following table:

Regional development agency	*Total Single programme allocation for 2008-09 (£000)*
Advantage West Midlands	300,630
East of England Development Agency	133,401
East Midlands Development Agency	163,000
London Development Agency	344,672
North West Development Agency	385,000
One North East	245,500
South East England Development Agency	157,811
South West Development Agency	163,000
Yorkshire Forward	299,462
Total	2,192,500

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what representations her Department has received from local authorities on whether the plans for free swimming for over-60s will impose a net financial cost on local authorities. [230527]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government have not received any representations on this matter. Department for Culture, Media and Sport have the lead in administering this policy.

Tenants Rights

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to increase the protection of private tenants; [232526]

(2) what recent steps the Government have taken to increase public awareness of the rights of private tenants; [232527]

(3) what recent steps the Government have taken to prevent private landlords retaining rental deposits without justification. [232528]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are keen to promote a strong private rented sector that acts professionally and meets the needs of all its customers. In January this year, we commissioned Julie Rugg and David Rhodes at the centre for housing policy at York university to carry out an independent review looking at how the sector is operating and what can be done to improve the experience of both landlords and tenants. The review, published on 23 October, puts forward some very interesting ideas on how to raise standards and professionalism in the sector which we will be considering in consultation with stakeholders.

We have already introduced measures to protect tenants' deposits. Under the Housing Act 2004, landlords are required to protect the deposits for all assured shorthold tenancies that have been created since 6 April 2007 in one of three Government-approved schemes. These arrangements are designed to safeguard the interests of both landlords and tenants, ensuring good practice in deposit handling, so that when a tenant pays a deposit and is entitled to get it back, he or she can be assured that this will happen. The arrangements also include measures to assist with the resolution of disputes, which are designed to make disagreements over the repayment of the deposit faster and cheaper to resolve. The scheme has got off to an excellent start. In the first year, nearly one million deposits totalling over £900 million were protected under the new arrangements at the rate of 2,500 deposits a day.

Details of the tenancy deposit protection arrangements and other regularly updated publicity material setting out tenants' rights are available on the Department's website and through:

www.direct.gov.uk

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what venues were visited by KPMG during its review of the responsibility standards for the production and sale of alcoholic drinks, commissioned by her Department. [228130]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office was sent this information from KPMG. However, we believe that this information is commercially sensitive, and it is not our practice to make public information received from third parties.

Animal Experiments

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many proposals have been made under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 to use animals in scientific procedures in 2008 to date; and how many of these have been accepted. [228911]

Meg Hillier: In 2008 to date under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 we have received 610 applications for project licences, 2,059 applications for personal licences and two applications for certificates of designation. In response, so far, 458 project licences, 1,933 personal licences and one certificate of designation have been granted.

Antisocial Behaviour

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how best practice on measures to combat antisocial behaviour is *(a)* assessed and *(b)* shared with others by her Department. [232301]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office antisocial behaviour ActionLine generates and evaluates case studies with the help of frontline practitioners on measures to combat antisocial behaviour. This information is available on the antisocial behaviour practitioner website:

www.respect.gov.uk

We also deliver regional workshops to help local practitioners make the best use of the available tools and powers.

In addition, the effective practice database on the crime reduction website contains over 40 examples of how agencies across England and Wales have used a problem solving approach to tackle antisocial behaviour in their areas:

http://www.crimereduction.homeoffice.gov.uk/cgi-bin/epd/index.cgi

The website is a highly used channel to communicate directly with crime reduction practitioners across a wide range of crime issues.

Antisocial Behaviour: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many vehicles were confiscated as a result of anti-social behaviour in Islwyn constituency in each of the last five years. [231610]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the number of vehicles confiscated as a result of antisocial behaviour is not collected centrally by the Home Office.

Crime: Children

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans the Government has to include people under the age of 16 years of age in the British Crime Survey; and if she will make a statement. [231709]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office has already announced that we plan to extend the British Crime Survey to people under the age of 16 from January 2009.

A National Statistics consultation seeking users' views on our proposals was carried out during the summer. Responses to this consultation are currently being considered and the Home Office will publish a document summarising comments received and its response in due course.

Crime: Petrol Stations

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* assaults, *(b)* robberies and *(c)* other crimes were committed at petrol stations in (i) Lancashire and (ii) nationally in each of the last three years. [230935]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The information requested is not collected centrally. It is not possible to determine the number of offences occurring at petrol stations from the recorded crime data collected by the Home Office.

Departmental Publications

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* Neighbourhood Wardens: an Evaluation of Selected Schemes, *(b)* Approved Premises: Referrals, Admissions and Outcomes, *(c)* Implementing Diversionary Restorative Justice: Lessons Learnt, *(d)* Process Study of Offender Management in the North West region and *(e)* Organised Crime: Revenues, Economic and Social Costs, and Criminal Assets Available for Seizure. [219060]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A copy of the draft unpublished research reports on "Neighbourhood Wardens: an Evaluation of Selected Schemes" and on "Organised Crime: Revenues, Economic and Social Costs and Criminal Assets Available for Seizure" will be placed in the Library as requested.

The reports on "Premises: Referrals, Admissions and Outcomes", "Implementing Diversionary Restorative Justice: Lessons Learnt" and "Process Study of Offender Management in the North West region" are now held in the Ministry of Justice following the machinery of government changes implemented in May 2007.

The Ministry of Justice will write to you separately regarding the release of these reports.

Domestic Violence

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the *(a)* recorded and *(b)* estimated actual number of incidents of domestic violence against (i) women and (ii) men was in the latest period for which figures are available; and if she will make a statement. [229293]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on police recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) is a nationally representative survey of adults living in private households in England and Wales. The survey asks about crimes that have been experienced in the last 12 months including those not reported to or recorded by the police. Latest estimates from the 2007-08 BCS, show that 288,000 incidents of domestic violence were committed against women and 52,000 incidents against men.

Domestic Violence: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of offences related to domestic violence were reported in each police division in Gloucestershire in the latest year for which figures are available. [229608]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales, but it is not possible to break the statistics down by police force area.

Domestic Violence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of offences related to domestic violence were reported in each police division of Hertfordshire constabulary in the latest year for which figures are available. [231107]

Mr. Alan Campbell: From the information collected centrally on recorded crime, it is not possible to identify recorded cases of domestic violence. Such offences are not specifically defined by law and details of the individual circumstances of offences are not collected.

The British Crime Survey (BCS) routinely provides information on the number of incidents of domestic violence in England and Wales, but it is not possible to break the statistics down by police force area.

Driving Offences

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* arrested and *(b)* convicted for driving without a licence or insurance in (i) North West Cambridgeshire constituency, (ii) Cambridgeshire, (iii) the East of England and (iv) England and Wales in each of the last five years. [229290]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The offence of driving without a licence or insurance is not a notifiable offence and does not form a part of the arrests collection.

Available information on convictions held by the Ministry of Justice, for the offences of 'driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence' and 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks', from 2002-06 (latest available) are provided in the following tables. 2007 data should be available end of November 2008.

Data are available at police force area level only.

Table A: Findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks'[1], within Cambridgeshire police force area, the East of England and England and Wales, 2002-06

	Number of offences				
	2002	*2003*[2]	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cambridgeshire	2,298	2,728	2,678	2,827	3,430
East of England	21,569	24,917	23,965	23,464	23,430
England and Wales	288,499	323,367	322,814	287,198	265,749

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143(2)

[2] As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Findings of guilt at magistrates courts for the offence of driving without a licence[1] within Cambridgeshire police force area, the East of England and England and Wales, 2002-06

	Number of offences				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Cambridgeshire	1,265	1,399	1,591	1,649	1,826
East of England	11,834	13,859	14,016	13,681	12,645
England and Wales	170,910	196,848	207,040	183,788	160,727

[1] An offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 87 (1) and (2) as amended.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data sytlems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drivers have been *(a)* stopped by police, *(b)* charged, *(c)* convicted, *(d)* fined and *(e)* cautioned for driving while using a mobile phone in each police force area in each year since the ban came into force. [230639]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information requested on the number of drivers stopped or charged for using hand held mobile phones while driving is not collected centrally. Data on court proceedings for the offence have been provided in lieu of charging.

Available information taken from the Court proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice from 2003 to 2006 (latest available) is provided in table 1. 2007 data should be available end of November 2008.

As the majority of 'use of hand held mobile phone while driving' offences are dealt with by the issue of a fixed penalty notice, data on the number issued are also included in table 2, covering the period from 2003 to 2006.

Table 1: Proceedings, findings of guilt and fines imposed at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06

Number of offences

	2003			2004		
Police force area	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	19	19	18
Bedfordshire	1	1	1	5	5	5
Cambridgeshire	0	0	0	7	6	6
Cheshire	0	0	0	2	1	1
Cleveland	0	0	0	4	3	3
Cumbria	0	0	0	24	24	23
Derbyshire	0	0	0	17	16	16
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	19	17	16
Dorset	0	0	0	0	0	0
Durham	0	0	0	1	1	1
Essex	0	0	0	28	25	25
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	1	1	1
Greater Manchester	0	0	0	73	65	64
Hampshire	0	0	0	18	15	15
Hertfordshire	0	0	0	6	6	6
Humberside	0	0	0	4	4	4
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	0	0	0	17	16	15
Leicestershire	0	0	0	12	9	8
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	9	5	5
London, City of	0	0	0	7	5	5
Merseyside	0	0	0	22	20	10
Metropolitan Police	0	0	0	203	124	116
Norfolk	0	0	0	20	15	13
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	0	0	0	32	29	26
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	18	18	16
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	8	7	6
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	12	12	11
Staffordshire	0	0	0	11	10	9
Suffolk	0	0	0	7	4	4
Surrey	0	0	0	9	7	7
Sussex	0	0	0	1	1	1

Table 1: Proceedings, findings of guilt and fines imposed at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1,2] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06

Number of offences

	2003			2004		
Police force area	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*
Thames Valley	0	0	0	34	21	20
Warwickshire	0	0	0	7	7	7
West Mercia	0	0	0	17	15	14
West Midlands	0	0	0	64	52	46
West Yorkshire	0	1	0	11	9	9
Wiltshire	0	0	0	21	19	18
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	13	13	13
Gwent	0	0	0	0	0	0
North Wales	0	0	0	3	3	3
South Wales	0	0	0	16	12	11
England and Wales	1	1	1	[illegible]	641	596

Number of offences

	2005			2006		
Police force area	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*	*Total court proceedings[3]*	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*
Avon and Somerset	47	39	38	54	48	48
Bedfordshire	16	13	13	76	62	60
Cambridgeshire	19	19	19	52	46	42
Cheshire	15	14	14	36	30	29
Cleveland	7	7	6	20	16	14
Cumbria	41	35	34	57	53	52
Derbyshire	52	40	40	35	30	29
Devon and Cornwall	27	25	24	52	42	39
Dorset	3	3	1	4	3	2
Durham	2	2	2	16	15	15
Essex	64	53	46	71	65	60
Gloucestershire	4	4	4	10	7	6
Greater Manchester	154	136	124	183	158	144
Hampshire	40	34	33	69	63	62
Hertfordshire	70	64	61	65	52	51
Humberside	25	22	21	45	39	35
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	0
Lancashire	46	46	39	62	48	44
Leicestershire	28	26	20	26	24	16
Lincolnshire	15	12	11	30	24	23
London, City of	14	12	12	24	20	20
Merseyside	27	23	14	46	41	27
Metropolitan Police	658	545	406	685	588	541
Norfolk	21	17	17	31	21	19
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	0
Northumbria	22	20	20	98	89	84
North Yorkshire	35	30	29	34	33	32
Nottinghamshire	26	24	18	17	15	13
South Yorkshire	25	21	17	43	32	30
Staffordshire	21	21	19	19	16	16
Suffolk	22	17	17	21	16	15
Surrey	91	82	82	92	88	87
Sussex	2	2	1	0	0	0
Thames Valley	126	112	106	211	175	172
Warwickshire	17	13	8	20	16	14
West Mercia	59	50	48	88	74	70
West Midlands	109	88	79	121	94	89
West Yorkshire	47	38	36	52	37	29
Wiltshire	29	22	21	38	32	32
Dyfed-Powys	16	13	13	15	14	13
Gwent	4	3	3	6	4	3

Number of offences

	2005			2006		
Police force area	*Total court proceedings*[2]	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*	*Total court proceedings*[2]	*Total findings of guilt*	*Total number of court fines*
North Wales	17	13	12	30	26	25
South Wales	25	20	20	28	21	18
England and Wales	2,090	1,789	1,646	2,682	2,277	2,120

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110(1), 110(2) and 110(3). Introduced 1 December 2003.

[2] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was originally issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table 2: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for the use of a hand held mobile phone while driving[1] *by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06*

		December		
Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
England				
Avon and Somerset	—	1,902	2,502	2,666
Bedfordshire	10	579	944	1,749
Cambridgeshire	—	219	1,347	3,505
Cheshire	—	2,689	2,891	4,985
Cleveland	13	1,066	1,955	2,263
Cumbria	13	528	1,021	1,412
Derbyshire	13	978	1,501	2,718
Devon and Cornwall	345	796	1,482	1,892
Dorset	—	521	657	1.982
Durham[2]	—	504	963	1,004
Essex	—	2,431	4,369	6.857
Gloucestershire	147	632	1,208	1,484
Greater Manchester	—	8,166	12,904	16,386
Hampshire	54	2,032	4,078	6,614
Hertfordshire	—	2,526	3,923	4,614
Humberside	—	381	1,202	1,924
Kent	15	1,707	4,829	4,708
Lancashire	34	1,719	3,079	3,937
Leicestershire	17	759	254	1,109
Lincolnshire	7	1,529	2,514	3,273
London, City of	45	137	1,647	2,077
Merseyside	—	1,836	5,684	8,800
Metropolitan	681	13,581	18,035	22,640
Norfolk[3]	17	887	904	—
Northamptonshire	1	297	971	1,428
Northumbria	56	1,271	2,409	3,248
North Yorkshire	5	720	1,289	2,414
Nottinghamshire	—	653	1,637	3,022
South Yorkshire	28	1,978	3,978	3,109
Staffordshire	12	264	2.346	2,416
Suffolk	42	978	1,707	2,613
Surrey	164	2,213	3,575	3,988
Sussex	—	546	1,105	2,318
Thames Valley	25	3,716	7.111	3,587
Warwickshire	—	621	918	1,281
West Mercia	—	2,200	5,246	6,842
West Midlands	144	3,864	5,065	4,661
West Yorkshire	—	2,368	4,272	4,997
Wiltshire	—	700	1,226	2,185
England	1,888	70,494	122,748	156,708
Wales				
Dyfed-Powys	—	363	628	950
Gwent	—	517	938	1,404

Table 2: Number of fixed penalty notices issued for the use of a hand held mobile phone while driving[1] by police force area, England and Wales, 2003-06

		December		
Police force area	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North Wales	—	999	424	3,083
South Wales	—	1,603	2,030	2,765
Wales	—	3,482	4,020	8,202
England and Wales	1,888	73,976	126,768	164,910

[1] Introduced 1 December 2003.

[2] Revised figure provided for 2006.

[3] Force unable to supply data for 2006 due to technical reasons.

Note:

Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Firearms: Crime

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of violence against the person involving a handgun were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 of the population for (i) England, (ii) the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2008; [231457]

(2) how many incidents of violence against the person where a fatality has occurred as a result of a handgun wound were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 of the population for (i) England, (ii) the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2008. [231458]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data relate to offences involving a handgun where the firearm was fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

Figures for England and Avon and Somerset police force area from 1997-98 up to and including 2006-07 are provided.

Table (A): Crimes in which a handgun was used[1] and offences per 100,000 population: England and Avon and Somerset, 1997-98 to 2000-07

	England		*Avon and Somerset*	
	Number of offences	*Offences per 100,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Offences per 100,000 population*
1997-98	2,620	5	40	3
1998-99[2]	2,668	5	41	3
1999-2000	3,672	7	54	4
2000-01	4,095	8	77	5
2001-02[3]	5,858	12	87	6
2002-03	5,531	11	86	6
2003-04	5,123	10	85	6
2004-05	4,325	9	42	3
2005-06	4,647	9	23	2
2006-07	4,151	8	36	2

[1] By being fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat.

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Table (B): Crimes in which a handgun was used[1] causing fatal injury and offences per 100,000 population: England and Avon and Somerset, 1997-98 to 2006-07

	England		*Avon and Somerset*	
	Number of offences	*Offences per 100,000 population*	*Number of offences*	*Offences per 100,000 population*
1997-98	33	0.07	—	—
1998-99[2]	29	0.06	1	0.07
1999-2000	42	0.08	—	—
2000-01	48	0.10	2	0.13
2001-02[3]	59	0.12	—	—
2002-03	39	0.08	3	0.20
2003-04	35	0.07	2	0.13
2004-05	36	0.07	—	—
2005-06	22	0.04	—	—
2006-07	27	0.05	—	—

[1] By being fired, used as a blunt instrument or used as a threat

[2] There was a change in the counting rules for recorded crime on 1 April 1998.

[3] The National Crime Recording Standard was introduced on 1 April 2002. Figures for some crime categories may have been inflated by this.

Genetics: Databases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of errors on the national DNA database; and how many and what percentage of the errors which were on the database in 2007 have been corrected. [229175]

Mr. Alan Campbell: It is not possible to estimate the number of erroneous records that may exist on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) and I refer my right hon. Friend to the reply given on 25 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 71W, by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Office (Meg Hillier), in response to a question from him on the number of irregularities on the National DNA Database.

About 13.3 per cent. of records on the NDNAD are estimated to be duplicates or replicates. These are not erroneous but are dealt with in this answer because of my right hon. Friend's previous reference to them as "mistakes"—21 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1032W, refers.

Replicate records can arise for a number of reasons but as they do not cause leads to be missed, or possible miscarriages of justice, they are not regarded as erroneous.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged under 18 who *(a)* have not been convicted of any crime and *(b)* have been convicted of a minor crime have their details stored on the national DNA database. [231720]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer given to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps) on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1565W.

No information is available on whether the crime for which the individual was convicted, cautioned, reprimanded or had received a final warning was minor or more serious and this could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of individuals from each police force area who have details stored on the National DNA Database have been found guilty of an offence. [232328]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database does not record convictions. That is done by the Police National Computer (PNC). When data was last obtained from PNC it showed that at 31 March 2008, 857,366 people on the National DNA Database did not have a current criminal record on the Police National Computer. However, this figure includes those who have been convicted and their records deleted, and those where proceedings are still ongoing, as well as those who have never been convicted. It would be possible to break this figure down by police force area only at disproportionate cost.

Illegal Immigrants: France

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assistance the Government provides to France on the policing of the French border of the Channel tunnel. [231730]

Mr. Coaker: The UK and French Governments and police organisations co-operate closely on policing of the channel tunnel. UK and French senior officials and police officers meet regularly in the Joint Security Committee (JSC), which is set up by the Intergovernmental Commission (IGC) to ensure continued comparability of security standards for the channel tunnel. Kent police provide a permanent police presence and response to the channel tunnel which is funded under the terms of the Channel Tunnel Act. Kent police, under joint arrangements, also maintain a permanent liaison office in Coquelles that provides direct engagement with the French authorities. Article 4 of the Sangatte treaty further mandates regular joint operational meetings between French and UK agencies. The safety and security of the channel tunnel is supported by other initiatives such as the annual exercise programme, the lead for which alternates between the UK and France.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what representations she has received on the effectiveness of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal in the last 12 months. [229240]

Mr. Coaker: The Secretary of State for the Home Department has not received any representations on the effectiveness of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal.

Police National Computer: Access

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department who is permitted to have access to the information contained on the police national computer. [232296]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my hon. Friend, the then Minister of state for security, counter-terrorism, crime and policing (Mr. McNulty), to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) on 5 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2672W.

Police: Olympic Games 2012

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what budgets police authorities have established for the cost of overtime and other expenses in connection with the policing of the 2012 London Olympics. [232901]

Mr. Coaker: Future budgets set by police authorities are a matter for the police authorities concerned. The Government are currently drawing up a detailed assessment of the likely additional security costs of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

Project Scope

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* Project Scope and *(b)* Project Scope 2; [221383]

(2) how much her Department spent on the delivery of *(a)* Project Scope and *(b)* Project Scope 2; [221384]

(3) when the roll-out of *(a)* Project Scope and *(b)* Project Scope 2 will be completed; and if she will make a statement. [221385]

Mr. Watson: I have been asked to reply.

With regard to the effectiveness of the SCOPE programme I have nothing further to add to the words of the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs during the recent debate on the Intelligence and Security Committee on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 498W.

In respect of information requested concerning the costs associated with the programme, I refer to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lewes (Norman Baker) on 6 November 2006, *Official Report*, column 862W.

We have informed our contractor for Phase 2 of SCOPE that a different approach to the delivery of those capabilities is needed. As a result we are discussing these implications with the contractor. The details of these discussions are commercially confidential and will remain so.

Research Development and Statistics Directorate: Publications

Mrs. Lait: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bury St Edmunds of 26 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 445-6W, on the Research Development and Statistics Directorate: publications, if she will place in the Library a copy of the research on neighbourhood wardens, redacting any sensitive personal information. [222947]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A copy of the draft unpublished research report on "Neighbourhood wardens: an evaluation of selected schemes" will be placed in the Library as requested.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* convicted of road accident fraud in each of the last five years. [232316]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The information requested is not collected centrally.

Sex Establishments: Licensing

Ms Barlow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether provisions to enable local authorities to license lap dancing clubs as sex encounter establishments will be included in the forthcoming Policing and Crime Reduction Bill. [232258]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following a consultation with local authorities, the Home Secretary recently announced that the Government would take the necessary steps to give a stronger say to local people over the establishment of lap-dancing clubs in their area.

The Government are considering various options, including whether to license such clubs as 'sex encounter establishments' as defined under the Local Authorities (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 and will introduce legislation as soon as the parliamentary timetable allows.

Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many shoplifting offences were committed in the last period for which figures are available. [229981]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There were 290,625 offences recorded by the police in 2007-08. This represents a fall of 1 per cent. over the previous year.

Surveillance: Telecommunications

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many requests law enforcement agencies made to telephone and internet companies for details of *(a)* telephone calls and *(b)* internet use involving a public body authorised to require the disclosure of information under Part 3 of the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 in each year since 2001; which were the 20 public bodies in respect of which the most requests were made; and how many requests were made in respect of each of those 20 bodies. [232947]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The number of requests for communications data under Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 (RIPA) is published in the Interception of Communications Commissioner's annual report. These figures were not collated before 2005 and are not broken down by agency, type of communication (i.e. telephone or internet) or the service provider.

	Number
1 January to 31 December 2007	519,260
11 April 2006 to December 2006	253,557
1 January 2005 to 31 March 2006	439,054

Part 3 of RIPA deals with investigation of electronic data protected by encryption. These provisions have only been in force since October 2007. To date, 26 section 49 notices have been served on individuals requiring them to disclose material protected by encryption in an intelligible form.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Paul Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to Question 201880, tabled on 25 April 2008 on the deployment of police officers to prevent violent extremism. [212937]

Mr. Coaker: My predecessor replied to you on 23 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 81W.

HEALTH

Venous Thromboembolism

11. **Dr. Richard Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make risk assessments for venous thromboembolism mandatory for all patients on admission to hospital. [232541]

Ann Keen: We expect this venous thromboembolism (VTE) risk assessment policy to be adopted throughout the national health service (NHS). Currently, at the request of the Chief Medical Officer, the Chair of the national implementation group is visiting throughout the NHS to discuss with senior managers and doctors their strategies for implementing VTE risk assessment in their hospitals. We will be monitoring the position closely and formally reviewing the policy in a year's time.

If there is inconsistency in, or lack of commitment to, implementation, we will consider making it mandatory to perform risk assessments.

GP-led Health Centres

12. **Laura Moffatt:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to introduce GP-led health centres across England; and if he will make a statement. [232542]

Mr. Bradshaw: Yes. Every local national health service (NHS) in England is in the process of procuring a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre open 8 am to 8 pm, 365 days a year.

People will be able to use the new services and remain registered with their own GP. This will increase choice and convenience for the public who tell us easier access to GP services is a top priority for further improvements to the NHS.

Exceptional Cases Panels

13. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue national guidance to primary care trusts on the composition and rules of procedure of exceptional cases panels. [232543]

Mr. Bradshaw: Yes. We are developing both a set of principles and detailed guidance to support local decision making including exceptional cases panels. We expect to publish both the principles and the new guidance in the new year. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State will be saying more on this in his statement.

Accident and Emergency Treatment

14. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number and percentage of people attending hospital accident and emergency departments whose treatment could have been undertaken by a trained first aider. [232544]

Mr. Bradshaw: No estimate has been made by the Department.

However, it is sensible for the local NHS to minimise the number of avoidable accident and emergency attendances.

Computerised Patient Records

15. **Mr. Bacon:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans his Department has to permit GP practices to transfer computerised patient records electronically to another practice prior to the GP2GP system becoming operational. [232546]

Mr. Bradshaw: The GP2GP service provides a secure method for transferring a patient's existing electronic health record when the patient first registers at a practice. Just under 60 per cent. of practices in England currently use this service and national health service Connecting for Health is working with suppliers to extend this service to more practices across England. Where practices do not yet have access to the GP2GP service, records may be transferred on paper or by a secure electronic medium approved by the primary care trust.

National Dementia Strategy

16. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the national dementia strategy. [232547]

Phil Hope: A draft of the national dementia strategy was published on 19 June for consultation. The consultation closed on 11 September and we are currently considering all the responses received before deciding on the final shape of the strategy. We aim to publish the strategy by the end of the year.

Accident and Emergency Care: South-West

17. **Alison Seabeck:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of accident and emergency care standards in the South West; and if he will make a statement. [232548]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent health watchdog, the Healthcare Commission, recently reported excellent performance in the Plymouth health community across all of the services providing emergency care, including ambulance, accident and emergency out-of-hours GP services, emergency care provided by GPs and minor injuries units. It also said the NHS was improving faster in the south west than in any other region of England.

Resource Allocation

18. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the allocation of NHS resources to those areas with the greatest health needs; and if he will make a statement. [232549]

Mr. Bradshaw: Revenue allocations to PCTs are made on the basis of a fair funding formula that directs funding towards those areas of greatest need. The aim of the formula is to ensure there is sufficient funding to provide equal access to equal need and reduce avoidable health inequalities.

Pharmacy Licences: 100-hour Rule

19. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the application of the 100 hour rule for granting pharmacy licences to supermarkets on the future of dispensing; and if he will make a statement. [232550]

Phil Hope: Consultation on possible options for legislative reform in respect of pharmacies opening at least 100 hours per week, whether in supermarkets or elsewhere, began on 27 August 2008 and ends on 20 November 2008. The consultation document, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change" is available on the Department's website together with associated impact assessments and copies have been placed in the Library.

Pharmacy White Paper

20. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the Pharmacy White Paper. *[232551]*

Phil Hope: Since we published our White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future" on 3 April 2008, the Department has received some 200 items of correspondence on this subject from hon. Members, Noble Lords, health professionals and members of the public up to 31 October 2008. In addition, consultation on proposals to reform the current legislative arrangements for NHS pharmaceutical services as promised in the White Paper began on 27 August 2008 and closes on 20 November 2008. The Department is receiving many representations as part of this consultation.

PCT Funding Formula: North Yorkshire

21. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to revise the funding formula for allocations to primary care trusts in North Yorkshire for 2009-10. [232552]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has recently reviewed the PCT funding formula. The new formula will inform revenue allocations post 2008-09. The allocations will be published alongside the operating framework later this year. ACRA's report of its review will also be published at this time.

NHS Treatment: Overseas Visitors

22. **Mr. Heathcoat-Amory:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what checks are made on the eligibility of overseas visitors for NHS treatment. [232553]

Dawn Primarolo: NHS hospitals have a legal duty to establish eligibility to free hospital treatment for all overseas visitors. They consider whether exemption from charge categories listed within these regulations apply, based on the evidence provided by the patient. If patients are not exempt, hospitals make and recover charges from them.

Resource Allocation Review

23. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on his Department's resource allocation review; and if he will make a statement. [232554]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Advisory Committee on Resource Allocation (ACRA) has completed its review of the PCT funding formula. The new formula will inform revenue allocations post 2008-09. The allocations will be published alongside the operating framework later this year. ACRA's report of its review will also be published at this time.

Business Rates

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the sum his Department will pay in business rates in respect of its empty property in England in 2008. [232531]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is currently estimated that £198,000 will be paid by the Department in empty business rates in 2008-09. The Department is actively seeking to dispose of its interest in the properties concerned.

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library a copy of the partial regulatory impact assessment on the Prohibition of Abortion (England and Wales) Bill of Session 2005-06; and if he will make a statement. [231787]

Dawn Primarolo: This document has already been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on his Department's proposals for a mandatory code of practice for the alcohol industry; and if he will make a statement.[1] [232134]

Dawn Primarolo: More than 3,300 representations have been received and are still being logged and analysed. These will be considered carefully.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of visits to accident and emergency departments related to patients requiring treatment where the primary or secondary diagnosis was excessive alcohol consumption in each of the last five years. [232136]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by the NHS on drugs to combat alcohol dependency in each of the last 10 years. [232139]

Dawn Primarolo: There are a number of drugs that can be used to treat, or that are used in the treatment of alcohol dependency. However, the vast majority of these drugs are used to treat a range of other conditions and data on their use cannot be broken down to show use by disease group, therefore providing these data would be misleading.

However, disulfiram (Antabuse) and acamprosate (Campral) are used only in the treatment of alcohol dependency and the following table gives the cost of prescriptions of these drugs over the last 10 years.

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[1] *[Official Report, 13 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 5MC.]*

	£
	NIC[1] of disulfiram and acamprosate
1998	1,078,184
1999	1,309,572
2000	1,900,413
2001	1,808,409
2002	1,620,725
2003	1,722,589
2004	1,828,429
2005	1,961,854
2006	2,143,146
2007	2,248,294

[1] Net Ingredient Cost is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the incidence of alcohol and cocaine poly-addiction. [232140]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS), collects local data about individuals in structured drug treatment and the treatment they receive.

The NDTMS reports that in 2007-08, 7,497 individuals, in specialist drug treatment, reported cocaine as one of their top three problem substances, with alcohol as either a second or third problem substance at the point of triage/initial assessment.

The NDTMS only records data for clients in specialist drug treatment in England and it excludes those whose primary problem is with alcohol.

Since April 2008, all providers of specialist alcohol treatment have been asked to submit data to the NTA's National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System on clients receiving specialist treatment for their alcohol misuse, however, these data are not currently robust enough for reporting purposes. Therefore, it is likely that the figure above underestimates the number of individuals addicted to both alcohol and cocaine in England.

It is only possible to collect data on those individuals who are addicted to both alcohol and cocaine when they enter treatment, therefore the data above take no account of those with poly-addiction who were not participating in treatment.

Alzheimer's Disease: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust in each of the last 10 years. [231096]

Phil Hope: The national Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people recorded on practice disease registers with a diagnosis of dementia. Alzheimer's disease accounts for 50-75 per cent. of cases of dementia so the count of patients with dementia gives an indication of the number with Alzheimer's disease. This register count is available only for the two latest releases of QOF, covering 2006-07 and 2007-08.

We are unable to supply this information for Hemel Hempstead as the data are only available for practices but can be aggregated to primary care trust (PCT) level. We have supplied information for the health area that best fits Hemel Hempstead, namely West Hertfordshire PCT.

These QOF figures are given in table 1. They are the totals for patients with dementia.

Table 1: QOF data—number of patients on the dementia disease registers—West Hertfordshire PCT

Financial year	*Number*
2007-08	2,030
2006-07	1,996

Notes:

1. QOF is the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, introduced as part of the new General Medical Services (GMS) contract on 1 April 2004.
2. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services (PMS) practices also taking part.
3. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national system developed by NHS Connecting for Health.
4. QMAS uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement. QMAS is a national IT system developed by NHS Connecting for Health to support the QOF.
5. The system calculates practice achievement against national targets. It gives general practices, primary care trusts (PCTs) and strategic health authorities (SHAs) objective evidence and feedback on the quality of care delivered to patients.
6. The Quality Management Analysis System captures the number of patients on the various disease registers for each practice. The number of patients on the clinical registers can be used to calculate measures of disease prevalence, expressing the number of patients on each register as a percentage of the number of patients on practices' lists.
7. Figures presented here are just the number of patients on the disease register for dementia.

Source:

The data supplied in table 1 are published on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care.

(a) For 2007-08 see the "Quality and Outcomes Framework 2007/08" publication data tables at the following link (published 30 September 2008).
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2007/08/data-tables
The table for PCT level QOF for 2007-08 can be found at this link:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2007-08/NewFilesGS/QOF0708_PCTs_Prevalence.xls
This publication has already been placed in the Library.

(b) For 2006-07 see "Quality and Outcomes Framework 2006/07" publication data tables at the following link (published 28 September 2007).
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/statistics-and-data-collections/supporting-information/audits-and-performance/the-quality-and-outcomes-framework/qof-2006/07/qof-2006-07-data-tables
The table for PCT level QOF for 2006-07 can be found at this link:
http://www.ic.nhs.uk/webfiles/QOF/2006-07/QOF0607_PCTs_Prevalence.xls
This publication has already been placed in the Library.

QOF information is not available for hospital trusts. Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are available and give the number of finished consultant episodes in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease, shown in table 2.

Table 2: Number of finished consultant episodes in which the patient had a primary or secondary diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease (International Classification of Diseases: ICD-10 = G30) by selected providers of treatment

	St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust and Mount Vernon and Watford Hospital	West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust
1997-98	112	—
1998-99	95	—
1999-2000	89	—
2000-01	—	89
2001-02	—	116
2002-03	—	124
2003-04	—	139
2004-05	—	140
2004-05	—	156
2006-07	—	101

Notes:

1. West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust was set up in 2000-01 by merging St. Albans and Hemel Hempstead NHS Trust and RQL Mount Vernon and Watford Hospital. Therefore figures prior to 2000-01 were provided as the total of RPW and RQL.
2. Numbers provided are for finished consultant episodes and for cases for patients admitted to NHS hospitals only. They do not represent the number of people as one person can have more than one episode during the year. They also do not represent the prevalence of people with Alzheimer's disease.
3. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one healthcare provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.
4. Primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital.
5. Secondary diagnoses, as well as the primary diagnosis, there are up to 13 (six prior to 2002-03) secondary diagnosis fields in Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) that show other diagnoses relevant to the episode of care.
6. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary diagnosis: these figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in the primary diagnosis field in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record.
7. Number of episodes in which the patient had a (named) primary or secondary diagnosis: these figures represent the number of episodes where the diagnosis was recorded in any of the 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once in each count, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.
8. Small numbers: due to reasons of confidentiality, figures between one and five have been suppressed and replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was possible to identify numbers from the total due to a single suppressed number in a row or column, an additional number (the next smallest) has been suppressed in order to protect patient confidentiality.
9. Data Quality: Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.
10. Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.
11. Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.
12. Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), the NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Attendance Allowance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals over the age of 65 applied for attendance allowance but did not satisfy the six month qualifying period in 2007-08. [231146]

Ms Rosie Winterton: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 447-48W, on the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), for what reasons final NICE guidance on MabThera (rituximab) for untreated stage III or IV follicular lymphoma was issued before the date on which NICE started its appraisal; and for what reasons the appraisal of Tarceva (erlotinib) in lung cancer (non-small cell) will begin four years after its referral to NICE. [231929]

Dawn Primarolo: There were typographical errors in the response to the earlier question. These errors have been corrected in the following table, which has also been updated to reflect the fact that final guidance for one of the appraisals has now been published.

Topic	*Work programme*	*Published/ongoing*	*Date of marketing authorisation*[1]	*Referral date*[2]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[3]
Xolair (omalizumab) for uncontrolled asthma	8	Published	October 2005	April 2003	November 2007	November 2006
Remicade (infliximab) for psoriasis	8	Published	September 2005	April 2003	January 2008	March 2007
Natrecor (nesiritide), Heart failure (acute decompensated)	9	Ongoing	n/a	October 2003	n/a	October 2003
Erbitux (cetuximab), Head and neck cancer	10	Published	March 2006	June 2004	June 2008	June 2006

Topic	*Work programme*	*Published/ongoing*	*Date of marketing authorisation*[1]	*Referral date*[2]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[3]
Iressa (gefitinib), lung cancer (non-small cell)	10	Ongoing	n/a	June 2004	n/a	January 2009
Tysabri (natalizumab) for the treatment of multiple sclerosis	10	Published	June 2006	June 2004	August 2007	September 2006
Alimta (pemetrexed) for mesothelioma	10	Published	September 2004	June 2004	January 2008	April 2005
Erbitux (cetuximab) for head and neck cancer	10	Published	March 2006	June 2004	June 2008	June 2006
Campto (irinotecan), colon cancer (adjuvant)	10	Ongoing	n/a	June 2004	n/a	n/a
Mabthera (rituximab) for untreated stage III or IV follicular lymphoma[4]	11	Published	August 2004	April 2005	February 2008	April 2007
Taxol (paclitaxel) for early node-positive breast cancer	11	Published	March 2005	April 2005	September 2006	November 2005
Taxotere (docetaxel) for early node-positive breast cancer	11	Published	March 2006	April 2005	September 2006	November 2005
Gemzar (gemcitabine) for metastatic breast cancer	11	Published	September 2004	April 2005	January 2007	February 2006
Fludara (fludarabine) for chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	11	Published	February 2003	April 2005	February 2007	February 2006
Alimta (pemetrexed) for the treatment of non-small cell lung cancer	11	Published	September 2004	April 2005	August 2007	April 2006
Tarceva (erlotinib), lung cancer (non-small cell)	11	Ongoing	September 2005	April 2005	n/a	March 2006
Idraparinux sodium, atrial fibrillation	12	Ongoing	n/a	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Arava (leflunomide), psoriatic arthritis (moderate to severe)	12	Ongoing	June 2004	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Idraparinux sodium, venous thromboembolism (recurrent)	12	Ongoing	n/a	July 2006	n/a	July 2006
Herceptin (trastuzumab) for early-stage HER2-positive breast cancer	12	Published	May 2006	July 2005	August 2006	December 2005
Alteplase (Actilyse) for the treatment of acute ischaemic stroke	12	Published	June 2002	July 2006	June 2007	September 2006
Champix (varenicline) for smoking cessation	12	Published	September 2006	July 2006	July 2007	November 2006
Humira (adalimumab) for the treatment of psoriatic arthritis	12	Published	August 2005	July 2005	August 2007	September 2006
MabThera (rituximab) for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis	12	Published	July 2006	July 2005	August 2007	September 2006
Velcade (bortezomib) for multiple myeloma	12	Published	April 2004	July 2005	October 2007	December 2005
Orencia (abatacept) for rheumatoid arthritis	12	Published	May 2007	July 2006	April 2008	October 2006
Tyverb (lapatinib), breast cancer (advanced or metastatic)	13	Ongoing	June 2008	December 2006	n/a	February 2007
Cimzia (certolizumab), rheumatoid arthritis	13	Ongoing	n/a	December 2006	n/a	December 2006
Remicade (infliximab), ulcerative colitis (acute exacerbations)	13	Ongoing	February 2006	December 2006	n/a	March 2007
Remicade (infliximab) for ulcerative colitis	13	Published	February 2006	December 2006	April 2008	March 2007
Acomplia (rimonabant) for obesity	13	Published	June 2006	December 2006	June 2008	June 2007
Baraclude (entecavir), Hepatitis B	14	Published	June 2006	June 2007	August 2008	September 2007

Topic	*Work programme*	*Published/ongoing*	*Date of marketing authorisation*[1]	*Referral date*[2]	*Date of final NICE guidance*	*Start of NICE appraisal*[3]
Sebivo (telbivudine), Hepatitis B	14	Published	April 2007	June 2007	August 2008	September 2007
Adenuric (febuxostat), hyperuricaemia	14	Ongoing	April 2008	June 2007	n/a	August 2007
Humira (adalimumab) for the chronic psoriasis	14	Published	December 2007	June 2007	June 2008	July 2007
Ixabepilone, breast cancer (locally advanced or metastatic)	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	July 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), colorectal cancer (first line)	15	Ongoing	July 2008	December 2007	n/a	January 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), lung cancer (non-small cell)	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	October 2008
Revlimid (lenalidomide), multiple myeloma	15	Ongoing	June 2007	December 2007	n/a	April 2008
Xeloda (capecitabine), pancreatic cancer	15	Ongoing	n/a	December 2007	n/a	June 2009
Pradaxa (dabigatran), venous thromboembolism	15	Published	March 2008	December 2007	September 2008	January 2008
Erbitux (cetuximab), head and neck cancer (squamous cell carcinoma)	16	Ongoing	March 2006	March 2008	n/a	March 2009
Effient (prasugrel), acute coronary artery syndrome	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	November 2008
Viread (tenofovir disoproxil fumarate), Hepatitis B	17	Ongoing	April 2008	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Nexavar (sorafenib), hepatocellular carcinoma (advanced and metastatic)	17	Ongoing	October 2007	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Orencia (abatacept), juvenile idiopathic arthritis	17	Ongoing	May 2007	June 2008	n/a	January 2009
Humira (adalimumab), juvenile idiopathic arthritis	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	September 2008
Sprycel (dasatinib), leukaemia (acute lymphoblastic)	17	Ongoing	November 2006	June 2008	n/a	July 2008
Temodal (temozolomide), melanoma (advanced and metastatic	17	Ongoing	June 2005	June 2008	n/a	March 2009
Mifamurtide, Osteosarcoma	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Romiplostim, thrombocytopenic purpura	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Promacta (eltrombopag), thrombocytopenic purpura	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	March 2009
Xarelto (rivaroxaban), venous thromboembolism	17	Ongoing	n/a	June 2008	n/a	August 2008
Azacitidine, acute myelomonocytic leukaemia and acute myeloid leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	January 2009
Xeloda (capecitabine), advanced gastric cancer	18	Ongoing	January 2008	July 2008	n/a	December 2008
Relistor (methylnaltrexone) opioid-induced constipation in patients receiving palliative care	18	Ongoing	July 2008	July 2008	n/a	February 2009
Toctino (alitretinoin), severe chronic hand eczema	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	October 2009

Topic	Wave programme	Published/ongoing	Date of marketing authorisation[1]	Referral date[2]	Date of final NICE guidance	Start of NICE appraisal[3]
Alimta (pemetrexed), locally advanced or metastatic non-small cell lung cancer	18	Ongoing	April 2008	July 2008	n/a	June 2009
Mabthera (rituximab), relapsed treatment of chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	September 2009
Mabthera (rituximab), chronic lymphocytic leukaemia	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	September 2008
Sutent (sunitinib), gastrointestinal stromal tumours	18	Ongoing	July 2006	July 2008	n/a	August 2008
Actemra (tocilizumab), rheumatoid arthritis	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	November 2008
Hycamtin (topotecan), carcinoma of the cervix	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	December 2008
Yondelis (trabectedin), advanced metastatic soft tissue sarcoma	18	Ongoing	September 2007	July 2008	n/a	September 2008
Ustekinumab, moderate to severe psoriasis	18	Ongoing	n/a	July 2008	n/a	November 2008

[1] Date of marketing authorisation by European Medicines Agency (EMEA).

[2] Topics before the 13 work programme were originally referred to NICE's Multiple Technology Appraisal (MTA) programme and were transferred to the STA programme when it was introduced in August 2006. The date provided is the date the topic was originally referred to NICE as a Multiple Technology Appraisal.

[3] The date NICE commenced work on the appraisal. NICE will also have carried out scoping work for the appraisal before this date.

[4] Guidance has been reviewed since the original guidance was published. The date of final guidance and date NICE started work on the appraisal refer to the review.

Care Homes: Abuse

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many incidents of *(a)* abuse and *(b)* neglect of patients by health and social care staff have been recorded in each region in each of the last five years. [231738]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally.

Care Homes: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes have been inspected in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 2000. [231099]

Phil Hope: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) took over the work of National Care Standards Commission on 1 April 2004. I am informed by the CSCI that the information shown in the table for nursing homes is only available from 2004. The information is also not collected for Hemel Hempstead separately and is only collected for the Hertfordshire council area.

Number of nursing homes subject to inspection by CSCI in each year in the Hertfordshire council area

Type of home	31 March 2004	31 March 2005	31 March 2006	31 March 2007	31 March2008
Care home with nursing	52	54	56	56	54
Total	276	283	290	293	290

Care Homes: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency received a (i) 0, (ii) 1, (iii) 2 and (iv) 3 star rating in each year since 2000. [231715]

Phil Hope: We are informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that CSCI can only provide the information requested from May 2008, when the star rating system was launched.

The following tables show star ratings for nursing homes in Hillingdon. CSCI does not collect data for Uxbridge, which is not a council with adult social services responsibility area.

Star ratings of nursing homes in Hillingdon

	0 stars—poor	One star—adequate	Two stars—good	Three stars—excellent	Total stars
6 May 2008	0	4	10	1	15

Source:
CSCI database static cut 6 May 2008

	0 stars—poor	*One star—adequate*	*Two stars—good*	*Three stars—excellent*	*Total stars*
28 October 2008	1	1	12	1	15

Source:
CSCI database 28 October 2008

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes were inspected in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in each year since 2000. [231721]

Phil Hope: The Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) took over the work of National Care Standards Commission on 1 April 2004. We are informed by the CSCI that the information shown in the following table for nursing homes is only available from 2004. The information is also not collected for Uxbridge separately and is only collected for the Hillingdon council area.

Number of nursing homes subject to inspection by CSCI in each year in the Hillingdon council area

As at 31 March	*Care home with nursing (number)*
2004	14
2005	14
2006	14
2007	15
2008	15

Source:
CSCI database (static cut taken 2 May 2008)

Continuing Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people receive continuing care funding in each primary care trust area; and of those how many have been diagnosed with some form of dementia. [231959]

Phil Hope: Information on the number of people receiving continuing care, broken down by primary care trust, has been placed in the Library.

The number of people diagnosed with dementia and receiving continuing care is not collected.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1348W, on dementia: drugs, what the reasons are for the time taken to publish the national dementia strategy. [232367]

Phil Hope: The Department has had to take into account the views expressed at over 50 consultation events and in over 500 written responses received. The Department also need to take into account all the financial implications before the final strategy and implementation plan are published. A great deal of work is involved and this has taken longer than had been originally been anticipated.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much Government funding was provided for medical research into dementia in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what percentage of the health research budget this represented in each year. [232371]

Phil Hope: National health service support for degenerative neurological disorder research and National Institute for Health Research investment in dementia research amounted in 2006-07 to £22.8 million. The Medical Research Council (MRC) spent £6.4 million on dementia research in the same year. This total expenditure of £29.2 million amounts to some 2.5 per cent. of the combined Departmental research and development and MRC budgets for the year.

A complete set of dementia research expenditure data for 2007-08 is not yet available.

Departmental Advertising

Sir Nicholas Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Fareham of 3 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1288-90W, on departmental advertising, if he will provide a detailed breakdown of the cost to his Department of public health awareness campaign advertising in the 2007-08 financial year. [230907]

Dawn Primarolo: The following table shows the advertising expenditure on public health awareness campaigns in the 2007-08 financial year.

Public health awareness advertising campaigns financial year 2007-08

	£ million
Sexual Health	2.9
Smokefree Legislation	4.1
Tobacco Cessation	12.0
Flu Immunisation	1.0
Antibiotics	0.4
Hepatitis C	1.3
Respiratory and Hand Hygiene	0.4
Drugs[1]	0.3
Alcohol[1]	0.5

[1] Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227482]

Mr. Bradshaw: Since July 2007, the Department has run two day-long sets of deliberative events, or citizens' juries, in nine strategic health authority (SHA) areas as part of the engagement programme of the NHS Next Stage Review. The purpose of the events was to hear the views of staff, patients and stakeholders to feed into the review.

With regard to the first event on 18 September 2007, I refer the right hon. Member to the written answer given to her on 30 October 2007, *Official Report*, column 1219W. Summaries of the discussions and those who attended are available on the review's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086529

The second day of deliberative events in the nine SHA regions was held on 24 January 2008 and comprised of a total of 999 people, of which, two thirds of the participants in each region were patients and public, with one third staff. The total cost of these events was £1,014,506.76.

Lead clinicians in each SHA gave an overview of the key points in Lord Darzi's interim report and also presented a summary of some of the emerging findings of their local work on the clinical pathways. The day was composed of a mix of table discussions, presentations and films for information, plus electronic polling on key questions on the pathways.

The findings from the second day of events also fed into the Engagement Analysis report, a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Drugs: Misuse

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of children under the age of 11 years in England have a parent who has had contact with a drug service, as recordeu by Drug Action Team statistics in *(a)* Nottinghamshire and *(b)* England. [225273]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data from drug services about clients in structured drug treatment and the treatment they receive, these include whether the client being treated is a parent of a child aged 16 or under or is living with a child aged 16 or under.

The number of clients in Nottinghamshire, in structured drug treatment in 2007-08, who are parents of a child aged 16 or under, or who are living with a child aged 16 or under is given in the following table, along with the total number of such clients for the whole of England. However, these are relatively new data items, whose collection started in April 2006, and as such are not as complete as other NDTMS data, therefore the following figures must be treated as indicative only.

	Nottinghamshire	*England*
Clients who are parents	1,386	62,658
Clients who are living with children	569	62,129

It is important to note that:

clients who are parents of children aged 16 or under may not be currently living with their child, i.e. the child may be living with the client's partner, living with other family member or be in care;

clients who are living with a child may not be the child's parent; and

it is possible that there is overlap between these two groups.

Additionally, Nottinghamshire County Drug and Alcohol Action Team recently published a needs assessment on young people and drug treatment, estimating there to be 2,424 children and young people with parents in drug treatment during 2006-07 and up to 22,000 children and young people with parents with problematic alcohol use. A copy of the needs assessment has been placed in the Library. These are local estimates, not verified National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) data.

Following the focus on drug-using parents in the new drug strategy "Drugs: protecting families and communities" (2008), published by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the NTA will be working with local drugs partnerships to improve the services available to parents who misuse drugs. Partnerships will receive local information on drug treatment clients who are parents, which they will be able to use in their treatment planning to help improve local service provision to this client group.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of GP practices in each primary care trust area are allowed to dispense medicines. [231560]

Phil Hope: The information is in the following table.

Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Dispensing practices*	*Proportion of dispensing practices (percentage)*
Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT	0	0
Barking and Dagenham PCT	0	0
Barnet PCT	0	0
Barnsley PCT	5	13
Bassetlaw PCT	4	36
Bath and North East Somerset PCT	6	22
Bedfordshire PCT	8	36
Berkshire East PCT	2	4
Berkshire West PCT	11	21
Bexley Care Trust	0	0
Birmingham East and North PCT	0	0
Blackburn with Darwen PCT	0	0
Blackpool PCT	0	0
Bolton PCT	0	0
Bournemouth and Poole PCT	1	2
Bradford and Airedale PCT	2	3
Brent Teaching PCT	0	0
Brighton and Hove City PCT	0	0
Bristol PCT	0	0
Bromley PCT	0	0
Buckinghamshire PCT	15	26
Bury PCT	0	0
Calderdale PCT	1	3
Cambridgeshire PCT	30	57
Camden PCT	0	0
Central and Eastern Cheshire PCT	7	13
Central Lancashire PCT	2	2
City and Hackney Teaching PCT	0	0
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	37	54
County Durham PCT	18	27
Coventry Teaching PCT	1	2
Croydon PCT	0	0
Cumbria PCT	15	23
Darlington PCT	2	18
Derby City PCT	0	0
Derbyshire County PCT	23	24
Devon PCT	32	30
Doncaster PCT	4	10
Dorset PCT	27	46
Dudley PCT	0	0
Ealing PCT	0	0
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	11	18
East Lancashire PCT	4	8

Primary Care Trust (PCT)	*Dispensing practices*	*Proportion of dispensing practices (percentage)*
East Riding of Yorkshire PCT	16	44
East Sussex Downs and Weald PCT	6	27
Eastern and Coastal Kent PCT	20	19
Enfield PCT	0	0
Gateshead PCT	3	9
Gloucestershire PCT	28	35
Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT	7	27
Greenwich Teaching PCT	0	0
Halton and St Helens PCT	0	0
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT	0	0
Hampshire PCT	30	21
Haringey Teaching PCT	0	0
Harrow PCT	0	0
Hartlepool PCT	0	0
Hastings and Rother PCT	9	26
Havering PCT	0	0
Heart of Birmingham Teaching PCT	0	0
Herefordshire PCT	10	45
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT	0	0
Hillingdon PCT	0	0
Hounslow PCT	0	0
Hull PCT	1	2
Isle of Wight Healthcare PCT	1	6
Islington PCT	0	0
Kensington and Chelsea PCT	0	0
Kingston PCT	0	0
Kirklees PCT	3	4
Knowsley PCT	0	0
Lambeth PCT	0	0
Leeds PCT	8	8
Leicester City PCT	0	0
Leicestershire County and Rutland PCT	20	24
Lewisham PCT	0	0
Lincolnshire PCT	56	77
Liverpool PCT	0	0
Luton Teaching PCT	1	3
Manchester PCT	0	0
Medway Teaching PCT	5	9
Mid Essex PCT	25	52
Middlesbrough PCT	0	0
Milton Keynes PCT	0	0
Newcastle PCT	0	0
Newham PCT	0	0
Norfolk PCT	59	68
North East Essex PCT	16	40
North East Lincolnshire PCT	5	16
North Lancashire PCT	5	18
North Lincolnshire PCT	8	47
North Somerset PCT	2	9
North Staffordshire PCT	10	30
North Tyneside PCT	1	4
North Yorkshire and York PCT	57	57
Northamptonshire PCT	23	32
Northumberland Care Trust	16	36
Nottingham City PCT	0	0
Nottinghamshire County PCT	13	16
Oldham PCT	0	0
Oxfordshire PCT	17	32
Peterborough PCT	10	32
Plymouth Teaching PCT	1	2
Portsmouth City Teaching PCT	0	0
Redbridge PCT	0	0
Redcar and Cleveland PCT	2	13
Richmond and Twickenham PCT	0	0
Rotherham PCT	4	11
Salford PCT	0	0
Sandwell PCT	0	0
Sefton PCT	0	0
Sheffield PCT	2	2
Shropshire County PCT	19	45
Solihull PCT	0	0
Somerset PCT	19	32
South Birmingham PCT	0	0
South East Essex PCT	2	3
South Gloucestershire PCT	4	14
South Staffordshire PCT	16	18
South Tyneside PCT	0	0
South West Essex PCT	5	7
Southampton City PCT	0	0
Southwark PCT	0	0
Stockport PCT	0	0
Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	1	4
Stoke on Trent PCT	1	2
Suffolk PCT	41	60
Sunderland Teaching PCT	9	0
Surrey PCT	14	10
Sutton and Merton PCT	0	0
Swindon PCT	4	14
Tameside and Glossop PCT	0	0
Telford and Wrekin PCT	1	5
Torbay Care Trust	0	0
Tower Hamlets PCT	0	0
Trafford PCT	0	0
Wakefield District PCT	6	17
Walsall Teaching PCT	1	2
Waltham Forest PCT	0	0
Wandsworth PCT	0	0
Warrington PCT	1	4
Warwickshire PCT	9	25
West Essex PCT	12	32
West Hertfordshire PCT	4	6
West Kent PCT	35	34
West Sussex PCT	16	20
Western Cheshire PCT	8	24
Westminster PCT	0	0
Wiltshire PCT	21	34
Wirral PCT	0	0
Wolverhampton City PCT	0	0
Worcestershire PCT	22	34

Source:
Primary Care Trust "Exeter" payment systems (2006-07)

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* minimum, *(b)* maximum and *(c)* average payment made to GPs in each primary care trust area for the purpose of dispensing medicines was in the most recent period for which information is available. [231561]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected centrally on minima or maxima average payments made to general practitioners (GPs) in each primary care trust for dispensing medicines. Overall dispensing GPs earned on average £126,996 in 2006-07, £23,000 more than non dispensing GPs.

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures are being considered to provide elderly patients with limited mobility who live in remote rural areas with access to dispensing facilities where GP dispensaries are closed. [231694]

Phil Hope: The pharmacy consultation paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change" was published on 27 August 2008. As part of this consultation, we have put forward options for possible reform of general practitioner dispensing arrangements on which we are seeking views. We have no preferred option at this stage nor have we come to a view as to whether any reform of these particular arrangements is necessary. However, any decisions will seek to protect the access to medicines for vulnerable members of the community.

Health Services: International Co-operation

John Cummings: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what process the mandate he gives his officials for international negotiations on areas of policy which are not the subject of settled Government policy is determined. [230260]

Dawn Primarolo: UK Government positions for negotiations that the Department leads are agreed in advance. This process involves other Government Departments with an interest and takes account of prior consultation with stakeholders.

All UK positions on international health should reflect the goals and principles in Health is Global—the Government's Global Health Strategy published on 30 September. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Hepatitis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 422W, on hepatitis, how many notifications of hepatitis B were made to the Health Protection Agency and its predecessor bodies in each year since 1997, broken down by strategic health authority area. [231967]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Statutory notifications of hepatitis B in England by strategic health authority: 1997 to 2007

Strategic health authority (SHA)												
Current	*Previous*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East Midlands	Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Rutland	21	22	33	33	17	28	24	28	36	77	65
	Trent	8	25	20	35	26	35	28	16	32	26	28
East of England	Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	15	13	24	38	48	66	51	59	59	14	8
	Essex	6	4	3	7	8	6	3	—	—	3	3
	Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire	4	8	19	17	3	5	9	12	17	8	7
London	North Central London	30	55	37	39	30	27	44	27	16	24	28
	North East London	30	30	57	50	43	36	18	23	10	20	11
	North West London	10	13	14	27	19	13	21	11	8	11	8
	South East London	87	87	101	92	149	162	157	174	209	171	111
	South West London	12	16	13	11	9	14	5	8	6	7	8
North East	County Durham and Tees Valley	7	6	11	30	55	37	23	13	23	53	13
	Northumberland, Tyne and Wear	24	20	14	16	15	31	80	70	91	30	20
North West	Cheshire and Merseyside	70	45	23	50	29	32	46	22	24	36	33
	Cumbria and Lancashire	26	31	33	55	46	45	48	43	27	30	31
	Greater Manchester	72	85	60	76	75	52	74	56	52	32	30
South Central	Hampshire and Isle of Wight	5	14	6	2	6	14	32	52	58	64	78
	Thames Valley	18	21	30	32	28	34	17	13	35	30	138

Statutory notifications of hepatitis B in England by strategic health authority: 1997 to 2007

Strategic health authority (SHA)												
Current	*Previous*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
South East Coast	Kent and Medway	6	23	16	27	37	20	25	23	28	10	18
	Surrey and Sussex	48	37	34	51	40	27	14	24	34	26	39
South West	Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	4	2	12	10	20	80	60	50	55	69	86
	Dorset and Somerset	20	45	22	51	57	42	43	72	71	45	52
	South West Peninsula	2	14	17	16	14	5	5	7	10	8	3
West Midlands	Birmingham and the Black Country	18	21	25	21	14	35	33	100	109	56	45
	Coventry, Warwicks., Herefords., Worcs.	9	8	5	7	5	14	22	12	10	10	32
	Shropshire and Staffordshire.	1	8	14	10	19	21	25	25	39	46	32
Yorkshire and Humbershire	North and East Yorkshire, N Lincolnshire	53	100	116	77	68	55	85	64	63	58	81
	South Yorkshire	15	5	13	16	28	29	38	60	36	26	47
	West Yorkshire	49	54	45	89	62	48	67	70	81	71	68
Port Health Authority		—	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
Total		670	813	817	985	970	1,014	1,097	1,134	1,239	1,061	1,123

Notes:

1. Hepatitis B is notifiable under the Public Health (Infectious Diseases) Regulations 1988.
2. SHAs have been merged, and the number reduced from 28 to 10. The table gives data for both the previous and the current SHAs.
3. Cells are left empty if no cases have been reported.
4. These data have already been published.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of people with hepatitis C infections. [232142]

Dawn Primarolo: In 2007, there were 7,540 laboratory reports of hepatitis C virus infection from laboratories in England received by the Health Protection Agency[1].

[1] This is a provisional total. Laboratory reports of hepatitis C are newly diagnosed cases of both current and past infections. This is because present serological tests are not able to differentiate between current acute and chronic hepatitis C infections, or between current and past hepatitis C infections.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely level of take-up of prescription home delivery services by *(a)* large dispensing appliance contractors and *(b)* all dispensing appliance contractors under his proposals for changes to the Part IX remuneration regime; and if he will make a statement. [232087]

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the prospects for patient choice for patients using home delivery services for intermittent catheters under Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [232385]

Phil Hope: In the June consultation relating to the review of Part IX of the Drug Tariff, it was proposed that that every dispensing appliance contractor and pharmacy contractor in England should be required to provide home delivery for all items in Part IXA (catheter, laryngectomy and tracheostomy), Part IXB and Part IXC of the Drug Tariff—if so requested by the user—as part of essential services for items that they supply in the normal course of their business.

The proposals set out in the consultation document reflect underlying assumption that 95 per cent. of these items require home delivery.

As it is proposed that every dispensing appliance contractor and pharmacy contractor in England should be required to provide home delivery—if so requested by the user—as part of essential services for items that they supply in the normal course of their business, patient choice would be maintained.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) when he expects the full summary of responses to the consultation on the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff to be published; and if he will make a statement; [232227]

(2) if he will respond to the contributions made by representative bodies to his Department's consultation on the provision of stoma and incontinence appliances under Part IX of the Drug Tariff. [232228]

Phil Hope: A summary of responses to the consultation entitled Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008 will be placed on the Department's website no later than three months after the consultation closed. As the consultation closed on 9 Septembers 2008, the summary will be published in week commencing 8 December 2008.

Responses to the June consultation will help to inform policy decision. Once these are announced, the Department will be seen to have responded to respondents' contributions.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he will report the outcomes of the most recent consultation on stoma and incontinence products. [233212]

Phil Hope: A summary of responses to the consultation entitled 'Proposed New Arrangements Under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the Provision of Stoma and Urology Appliances—and Related Services—in Primary Care. June 2008' will be placed on the Department's website no later than three months after the consultation closed. As the consultation closed on 9 September 2008, the summary will be published in week commencing 8 December 2008.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 657W on incontinence: medical equipment, how many *(a)* letters and *(b)* other informal responses his Department received from (i) healthcare professionals, (ii) primary care trust representatives, (iii) strategic health authority representatives, (iv) patients and (v) others on the June 2008 consultation on changes to Part IX of the Drug Tariff; and if he will make a statement. [233268]

Phil Hope: It is not possible to provide the information in the format requested. Such information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

During the consultation period of 9 June to 9 September 2008, the Department received 604 pieces of correspondence, letters and emails regarding the consultation on proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology items—and related services—in Primary Care.

Learning Disability

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what requirements there are upon local authorities to *(a)* hold and *(b)* maintain adult learning disability registers; and if he will make a statement; [231546]

(2) which local authorities have an up-to-date adult learning disability register; [231547]

(3) how many adult learning disability registers capture whether the person has a profound learning disability; [231660]

(4) what guidance he has issued to local councils on how to use school data on young people with profound and multiple learning disabilities in order to plan for their needs as they move into adult services; and if he will make a statement. [231661]

Phil Hope: There are no requirements upon local authorities (LAs) to hold and maintain adult learning disability registers. It is for LAs to work with local partners to determine the numbers and needs of their population through the joint strategic needs assessment. Las will also hold details of adults known to services and their level of need.

The information on which LAs have an up-to-date adult learning disability register is not held centrally, nor is information on how registers capture individuals level of need.

There has been no guidance issued by the department to local councils in relation to school data. However, guidance by the Director of Adult Social Services (DASS) 2006, sets out the responsibility of the DASS for arrangements to support the transition of service users between children's and adult's services. A copy of this guidance has been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* total annual expenditure on support packages for people with profound and multiple learning disabilities *(b)* the maximum care package awarded for someone with a profound and multiple learning disability was in each local authority in each of the last five years. [231662]

Phil Hope: Expenditure data on people with profound and multiple learning disabilities and on the level of individual care packages are not collected centrally.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities are living in out-of-borough placements. [231663]

Phil Hope: The Department does not hold data on the percentage of people with profound and multiple learning disabilities living in out-of-borough placements. However, it does hold information on the percentage of all adults with learning disabilities in residential care and nursing care placements, placed outside local authority areas: 32 per cent. of supported residents in this group are placed outside local authority areas.

Mental Health Services: Closures

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS mental health units in England have closed since 1997. [231865]

Phil Hope: This information is not collected centrally.

Mental Health Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many residents in Hemel Hempstead have received NHS assistance for mental illness in each year since 1998; how many of those received *(a)* general practitioner counselling, *(b)* specialist counselling, *(c)* residence in specialist hostels and *(d)* hospital accommodation in each year; and what estimate he has made of the volume of such assistance which will be required in 2008-09. [231907]

Phil Hope: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of finished mental health consultant episodes for patients at the Hertfordshire Partnership NHS Trust from 2001-02 to 2006-07 which are the latest data available.

	Finished consultant episodes
2001-02	2,505
2002-03	2,558
2003-04	2,677
2004-05	1,852
2005-06	1,471
2006-07	1,678

Notes:

Finished Consultant Episode (FCE):

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Consultant Main Specialty:

This defines the specialty under which the consultant responsible for care of the patient is contracted. Care is needed when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as acute). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other recorded information.

Consultant main specialties included:

710 = Mental illness
711 = Child and adolescent psychiatry
712 = Forensic psychiatry
713 = Psychotherapy
715 = Old age psychiatry (available from 1990-91)

Data Quality:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practice nurses there were in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [232773]

Ann Keen: Data are not collected in the format requested. Data are available for the primary care trusts (PCTs) that serve the constituency and local authority areas for 2002 and 2007 and is shown in the following table.

Practice Nurses for selected area in 2002 and 2007

	Numbers (headcount)	
	2002	*2007*
Total for specified organisations	168	175
Maldon and south Chelmsford PCT	46	n/a
Chelmsford PCT	67	n/a
Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCT	55	n/a
Mid Essex PCT	n-a	175

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Data for practice nurses are not available at parliamentary constituency or local authority area. West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and the Chelmsford local authority area are contained within and served by the primary care trusts provided here.
2. Mid Essex PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Chelmsford PCT, Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT and Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCT
3. Prior to 2002 PCTs did not exist. It is not possible to map organisations back beyond this to provide a time series.
4. Data as at 30 September 2002 and 2007

Data Quality

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Nutrition

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 25 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 366-67W, on nutrition, when he plans to publish the interim progress report of the Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board. [231963]

Dawn Primarolo: The Nutrition Action Plan Delivery Board interim progress report will be published on the Department's website in winter.

Pharmacy

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to reduce the time taken to reimburse pharmacists for dispensing prescription items. [232498]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is committed to ensuring that the reimbursement arrangements for pharmacists provide for a suitable payment timetable. However, this particular issue needs to be considered in the wider context of other measures to support community pharmacy.

Sex

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the proportion of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys reporting having (i) their first sexual experience and (ii) sexual intercourse for the first time at (A) 11 years of age or under, (B) 12 years of age, (C) 13 years of age, (D) 14 years of age, (E) 15 years of age and (F) 16 years of age and older. [231577]

Dawn Primarolo: The information is not available in the format requested.

I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Strangford (Mrs. Robinson) on 18 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 1012W.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

British Energy: EDF

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on which occasions Ministers in his Department have met senior executives of *(a)* British Energy and *(b)* EDF in each of the last 12 months. [231792]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with EDF twice at DEFRA in the last 12 months but not with British Energy. Other Ministers did not meet with EDF or British Energy.

Brownfield Sites: Contamination

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department will publish further guidance to local authorities on brownfield sites contaminated as indicated in Improvements to Contaminated Land Guidance: Outcome of the Way Forward Exercise on Soil Guidelines Values. [231698]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The DEFRA statement "Improvements to contaminated land guidance: outcome of the Way Forward exercise on soil guideline values" was issued on 22 July 2008. It listed 14 measures being taken by DEFRA, the Environment Agency and others to improve guidance in this area.

Among the measures was new DEFRA "Guidance on the Legal Definition of Contaminated Land". This document was published on 28 July and is available on the DEFRA website.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated *(a)* average agricultural tariff and *(b)* average intervention price was under the Common Agricultural Policy in each of the last five years, broken down by commodity; and if he will make a statement. [230841]

Jane Kennedy: Since the EU's tariff schedule includes both ad valorem (percentage of price) components and specific (€ per tonne) components, tariffs are compared using estimates of the ad valorem equivalent (AVE). Calculation of the AVE requires an estimate of the import price. Typically unit import values (the value of imports divided by the volume) are used as the estimate of the price in the conversion process.

There is a further complication in deriving average tariff estimates. Each commodity has several (and sometimes many) tariff lines, often with very different tariff rates. These lines can be averaged in different ways, for example a simple average could be used, or lines weighted according to import volumes. Many imports also take place within the context of tariff rate quotas where the applied rate of duty is lower than the bound rate. Further, each commodity has several (and sometimes many) tariff lines, often with very different tariff rates. These lines can be averaged in different ways, for example a simple average could be used, or lines weighted according to import volumes.

Each method has particular disadvantages. For example, weighting by import volume assigns low weight to tariff lines where the tariff is high enough to eliminate imports. This tends to reduce the estimated tariff rate. Historically DEFRA's approach has been to present the tariff for a 'representative' tariff line which accounts for the bulk of imports, or, when there is no clearly dominant individual line, to present a simple average of several important tariff lines.

The EU's bound Most Favoured Nation (MFN) agricultural tariffs have remained unchanged over the period 2003 to 2007, and table 1 presents AVE's for the major commodities as calculated by DEFRA. These estimates give a broad indication of the level of protection, but the tariff applied to a particular consignment on a tariff line may differ, as explained above.

Table 1: Estimated EU bound tariff equivalents for major commodities

	Percentage
Durum wheat	78
Low and medium quality wheat	69
Rye	65
Barley	79
Oats	62
Maize	71
Sorghum	71
Triticale	21
Raw sugar	66
Beef*	100
Pigmeat	30
Lamb	60
Poultry meat	53
Skimmed milk powder	91
Butter	101
Cheese	68
Eggs	38
Cocoa paste	10
Tomatoes	58
Apples*	38

Representative tariff line except * (average from selected bundle of important tariff lines).

Source:

'A Vision for the Common Agricultural Policy' (2005), DEFRA and HMT.

For comparison we also present EU tariffs estimated using an alternative methodology, where average tariffs have been calculated using weights based on imports in a reference group of countries. This approach is better than using only EU imports as weights (which introduces significant downward bias as mentioned above), but may still understate the true level of protection. These estimates are presented in Table 2, and are available only at an aggregate level.

Table 2: Estimates for average EU bound tariff equivalents

	Percentage
Meat and offal	73.3
Dairy products	70.9
Vegetables	23
Edible fruit and nuts	18
Sugar	104.5
Cocoa and preparations	4.6
Coffee and tea	1.2
Cereals	88.2

Source:
'Implications for the European Union of the May 2008 Draft Agricultural Modalities' (2008), International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD).

Intervention prices for the main commodities are presented in table 3.

Table 3: Intervention prices by commodity for marketing years 2003-04 to 2007-08

					€/tonne
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Durum wheat	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3
Common wheat	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3
Barley	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3
Rye	101.3	—	—	—	—
Maize/sorghum	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3	101.3
White sugar	631.9	631.9	631.9	631.9	631.9
Butter	3,282.0	3,052.3	2,824.4	2,595.2	2,463.9
Skimmed-milk powder	2,055.2	1,952.4	1,849.7	1,746.9	1,746.9

Note:
Marketing year is July to June for durum wheat, common wheat, barley, rye, maize/sorghum and white sugar; and April to March for butter and skimmed-milk powder.
Source:
Annual publications of 'Agriculture in the European Union: Statistical and economic information', EC.

Departmental Buildings

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the location is of each office occupied by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies which has been (i) newly occupied and (ii) refurbished in the last 24 months; and what the floor area in square metres is of each. [221951]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has no offices that have been both newly occupied and refurbished in the last 24 months.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he has taken to offset his Department's carbon emissions in the last 12 months. [231915]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) participates in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF), through which it offsets all air and rail travel undertaken by the Department's Ministers and officials.

To date, DEFRA has made provision through GCOF to cancel credits to the amount of 6055.91 tonnes of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO_2e), at a cost of £60,014.07. This covers the years 2005-06 and 2006-07. Figures for 2007-08 are currently being compiled and should be available in the near future.

All offset credits purchased by the GCOF are internationally compliant certified emission reductions (CERs), sourced from small scale abatement projects in developing countries, and approved under the Clean Development Mechanism.

Departmental Drinking Water

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on bottled water in the last 12 months. [231918]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I would refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) on 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2277W.

Departmental Information Communication Technology

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228420]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Core DEFRA's expenditure on upgrading its IT, defined as the additions to its asset base in the year, are identified in the following published accounts:

	£ million
2007-08	18.452
2006-07	1.628
2005-06	10.737

Departmental Pay

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what total cost. [226418]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Bonuses are used to reward excellent performance during the year and are based on a judgment of how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. Performance related pay schemes encourage high attainment because bonuses have to be earned each year. They help drive high performance in departments and agencies and support better public service delivery.

For the SCS

Non-consolidated cash payments, otherwise known as bonuses, reward in-year performances in relation to agreed objectives, or short term personal contribution to wider organisational objectives. Bonuses are paid in addition to base pay increases and do not count towards pension.

Bonuses are allocated by Departments from a 'pot' expressed as a percentage of the SCS salary bill, which is agreed centrally each year following the SSRB recommendations. The intention is that bonus decisions should be differentiated in order to recognise the most significant deliverers of in-year performance.

For staff at Grade 6 and below

The High Performance Bonus Awards scheme introduced in April 2005 provide staff in DEFRA And those agencies covered by the core-Department's reward arrangements, with recognition and reward for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance that significantly exceeds normal expectations. The process should provide staff at all grades with an opportunity to earn a bonus, and ensure that achievements in operational, policy and corporate services areas are recognised as being of equal esteem.

There are two types of award:

In-year high performance bonuses paid to individuals or teams in recognition of one-off achievements during the year; and

Annual high performance bonuses which in 2007 and 2008 were paid to the top 10 per cent. of performers for delivery of an outstanding outcome or performance sustained throughout the whole year.

For the period October 2007 to September 2008, 2791 performance bonuses totalling £5,629,125 were awarded to staff in DEFRA and those agencies covered by DEFRA terms and conditions (core-DEFRA (including staff who transferred to DECC in October 2008), Animal Health, Veterinary Medicines Directorate, Marine and Fisheries Agency and Government Decontamination Service and until 1 April 2008 Pesticides Safety Directorate). This period included two years of annual performance bonuses, with bonuses for the 2006-07 performance cycle paid in November 2007 and bonuses for the 2007-08 performance cycle paid in August 2008.

Environment Protection: Waste Management

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if his Department will direct the Environment Agency to amend The Definition of Waste: Development Industry Code of Practice to remove the requirement for safe soils to be passed through licensed treatment if they need to be moved to another site. [231697]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Excavated soil removed from a site is classified as waste under the EC Waste Framework Directive, as some soils are contaminated, which means that certain safeguards are required. Unfortunately, this has led to restrictions on the transfer of good quality soil to other sites and can lead to good quality soils being buried in landfill. To address this, DEFRA worked with the Environment Agency, Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) and industry to try and agree a Waste Quality Protocol setting out when soil should be regarded as safe and where it would be acceptable for soil to be transferred to another site without the need for treatment or being subject to permitting requirements. However, this ran into difficulties due to the lack of a straightforward way of determining when soil should be regarded as safe. Alternative risk based approaches to managing soil from uncontaminated sites are now being looked at.

Exmoor National Park Authority

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to the public purse was of each member on the Exmoor National Park Authority in each of the last five years; and how much was spent on *(a)* travelling and *(b)* other expenses for each member in each year. [230987]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA's grant to the Exmoor National Park Authority in the last five years has been as follows:

	£ million
2004-05	3.291
2005-06	3.616
2006-07	3.700
2007-08	3.794
2008-09	3.957

The Authority sets its own levels of allowances and expenses. Details of the payments to individual members for the last two years are available on the Authority's website:

www.exmoor-nationalpark.gov.uk

as part of the published papers for the meetings of the Resources and Performance Committee on 24 June 2008 and 25 September 2007. Details for earlier years are not held by DEFRA but may be obtained from the Authority.

Fisheries: Quotas

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 28 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1863W, on fisheries: quotas, whether an assessment has been made on the catch composition of the catch from vessels involved in the Irish sea discard pilot; what the difference between the catch composition and the quota allocation was; and if he will make a statement. [228135]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The discard data generated by the Irish sea data enhancement pilot are consistent with accepted methods of discard data collection, such as through the Data Collection Regulation. Therefore, the additional data generated by the pilot using fishermen's self sampling, increase the sample size of the fleet from which to assess the level and types of discarding. These data will now be assessed to identify patterns of discarding in the Irish sea by area and season.

Fishing Catches

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will take steps to promote the procurement of fish caught by UK vessels in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [232757]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The EU treaty and public procurement regulations do not allow member states' public bodies to give greater weight to the procurement of fish caught by UK vessels when awarding contracts. This is because public bodies are required to ensure public procurement is fair, transparent and not used to discriminate by setting up barriers to free trade. It would also reduce competition contrary to UK public procurement policy that is designed to achieve value for money for the taxpayer.

The legal and policy framework does, however, provide public bodies with the flexibility to be innovative in their procurement and, through the Public Sector Food Procurement Initiative (PSFPI), the Government are encouraging them to increase tendering opportunities for small and local producers and to work in partnership with their contractors to similarly open up their supply chains where this is commercially viable.

Various public bodies such as the South East England Development Agency (SEEDA) and the South East Food Group Partnership are also currently working to promote the procurement of UK-caught fish within the private sector.

Incinerators

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many new waste incinerators have been installed in each of the last 10 years. [231938]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the number of waste incinerators which were permitted in the UK in each of the last 10 years by the Environment Agency, or its predecessor Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Pollution (HMIP). It includes all incineration processes that take waste from off-site sources. It does not include processes that burn their own waste.

	Number of incinerators
1998	4
1999	7
2000	4
2001	1
2002	1
2003	0
2004	0
2005	13
2006	0
2007	0

New Forest National Park Authority

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will make it the policy of the New Forest Park Authority that they should employ an architects' panel or a design review panel to enhance the quality of decision-making by their environmental design department. [230857]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Decisions on these issues are for the New Forest National Park Authority to take. It is an independent authority operating within the local government framework and legislation.

New Forest National Park Authority: Consultants

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which firms of consultants have been engaged by the New Forest National Park Authority to provide research for the authority's *(a)* Management Plan and *(b)* Recreation Management Strategy; [232483]

(2) what the conclusions were from each of the workshops convened to engage and gain contributions from stakeholders of the New Forest National Park Authority Management Plan and Recreation Management Strategy; [232484]

(3) what the *(a)* date and *(b)* location of each of the workshops convened to engage and gain contributions from stakeholders on the New Forest National Park Authority Management Plan and Recreation Management Strategy was; and who the (i) invitees to and (ii) attendees at each event were; [232485]

(4) how much the employment of consultants for work associated with the section of the New Forest National Park Authority *(a)* Management Plan and *(b)* Recreation Management Strategy has cost to date; and what estimate has been made of the final cost; [232486]

(5) how many tenders were received for consultancy support in the development of the New Forest National Park Authority Management Plan and Recreation Management Strategy; and to which firm the contract was awarded; [232488]

(6) who the members of the Stakeholder Advisory Group to the New Forest National Park Authority are; and what the relevant qualifications of each are. [232489]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* This is a matter for the New Forest National Park Authority and I have asked Lindsay Cornish, the chief executive, to write to the hon. Member with the information.

Polytunnels

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of agricultural land in England is covered by polytunnels. [232772]

Jane Kennedy: Data are not collected on areas of crops specifically grown in poly tunnels. These areas are recorded as open field crops as the crops are only covered for part of the year.

Rats: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate he has made of the rat population in each London borough. [231916]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA does not hold data on the size of the UK rat population or on the rat population in each London borough.

Data on rodent infestation in domestic dwellings are obtained from the English House Condition Survey (EHCS). The detailed findings for 2001 are summarised in the report, "Rodent infestations in domestic properties in England, 2001". The EHCS data only provide an estimate of the proportion of dwellings with rat infestations inside or outside. They do not provide definitive data on the number of rats.

In May, DEFRA published an interim report on rodent presence in domestic properties from the EHCS data for 2002-03 and 2003-04. The key findings were that the occurrences of rats in these years are not significantly different from those observed in 2001.

A further detailed report is anticipated for publication in spring 2009.

River Rom: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how much has been spent in maintaining, cleaning and managing the River Rom in Essex in each of the last five years; [231910]

(2) what recent steps have been taken to maintain or improve the River Rom in Essex. [231934]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following figures cover the cost to the Environment Agency for channel maintenance, the treatment of Japanese knotweed, unplanned blockage removal and regular planned deployment of staff.

	£
2003-04	16,300
2004-05	14,372
2005-06	14,972
2006-07	37,146
2007-08	47,492
2008-09 (to date)	40,000

The Environment Agency made a contribution of £25,000 to the London borough of Havering to help cover the costs of bringing the River Rom up to standard.

The Cross Road Flood Storage Reservoir is a classified reservoir under the Reservoirs Act. This takes and stores flood water from the Rom. To date, the Environment Agency has spent over £40,000 in carrying out maintenance and public safety works.

In 2006, the Environment Agency took on responsibility for maintenance of a further 5.4 km of the river. This was part of a national transfer of responsibilities from local authorities.

Since then, the Environment Agency has delivered an annual maintenance programme that involves clearing the river of fallen trees, clearing blockages, removing invasive plants, clearing vegetation on embankments, installing safety railings and improving the safety of the Cross Road Flood Storage Lagoon.

Substantial investment is planned for the next three years to improve this flood storage area and manage the risk of flooding to people in the Romford area.

Science: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the likely effect of the transfer of his responsibilities on climate change to the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on his Department's science budget; and if he will make a statement. [233216]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The budget for the new Department is currently being decided between it and the contributory Departments: the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform. Included in these deliberations is a division of the science budget. The budget for the new Department is expected to be announced to Parliament in the spring Supplementary Estimate.

Squirrels: Conservation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to ensure the long-term survival of red squirrels in England. [231912]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I can only answer with respect to England as this is a devolved matter.

The red squirrel is a priority species under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. The conservation aim for this species is to maintain self-sustaining populations of red squirrels, and wherever practicable, expand red squirrel populations where their sustainability is threatened. This action plan is being implemented through a broad partnership of government, statutory conservation agencies and the private and voluntary sectors.

In England, the approach to red squirrel conservation is to secure long-term habitat and conditions favouring the red squirrel in areas where grey squirrels have not yet reached in significant numbers and by limiting grey squirrel expansion into these areas.

The Red Alert North England partners have designated 16 reserves and associated buffer zones where long-term survival of the red squirrel is considered most likely. The partners' Save our Squirrels project is delivering advice to landowners, co-ordinating squirrel control in the buffers, promoting Forestry Commission grants, raising public awareness and gaining further funding for squirrel conservation work.

The Red Squirrel Partnership led by Lord Redesdale was awarded a three-year £148,000 grant in June 2006 from rural enterprise scheme to support the control of grey squirrels in Northumberland to help protect the red squirrel reserves.

Warm Front Scheme

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns

1087-8W, on the Warm Front scheme, what the average contribution requested from householders assisted under the Warm Front scheme was in *(a)* St. Ives constituency, *(b)* Cornwall and *(c)* England since contributions were introduced in 2005. [222864]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is provided in the following table.

Area	*Average cost of contribution (£)*
St. Ives constituency	1,025.74
Cornwall (LA boundaries)	1,018.99
England (all)	538.00

Waste and Resources Action Programme

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 746W, on the Waste and Resources Action Programme, (1) what remit was given to Chelgate Ltd; and what each of the resource efficiency issues were that were developed; [231969]

(2) what WRAP's definition is of a resource efficiency issue; [231970]

(3) whether the use of Chelgate Ltd to contact public policy makers and opinion formers from outside WRAP's established stakeholder groups, included liaising with *(a)* representatives of political parties, *(b)* hon. Members and *(c)* noble Lords. [231971]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The Waste and Resources Action Programme's (WRAP) remit from its Government funders is to help individuals, businesses and organisations to waste less and recycle more and to help support the development of end markets for recycled materials. WRAP describes this role as encouraging 'resource efficiency'. WRAP'S work delivers environmental, social and economic benefits, and so its advice, experience and agenda is of interest to policy makers in Government and other political parties. WRAP therefore decided to strengthen its links with policy makers within Government, Parliament and other parties.

The remit given to Chelgate Ltd. was to provide specialist help to support WRAP in improving their engagement with political stakeholders. The objective was to help WRAP raise the level of those stakeholders' awareness of WRAP, their activities and the value of those activities to the UK economy and environment. This support was of a general nature, across all the issues dealt with by WRAP.

WRAP'S aim is to help to build a more resource efficient UK. WRAP therefore considers the term 'resource efficiency' to include all the issues with which it deals.

The use of Chelgate Ltd. to contact public policy makers and opinion formers from outside WRAP'S established stakeholder groups did include liaising with representatives of political parties, honourable Members and noble Lords.

Chelgate Ltd. was engaged at a cost of £25,000.

Waste Disposal: Council Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether domestic properties with a *(a)* Class M and *(b)* Class N council tax exemption will be liable to pay the new taxes for the collection of household rubbish; [230724]

(2) whether domestic properties with a Class V council tax exemption will be liable to pay the new taxes for the collection of household rubbish. [230725]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have no plans to introduce new taxes for the collection of household rubbish.

Waste Management

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding has been provided to waste reduction schemes under the Landfill Communities Fund and its predecessor in each year since 1997. [231664]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Figures supplied by the fund's regulator, Entrust, show that funding provided for sustainable waste management projects under the landfill communities fund (formerly the landfill tax credit scheme) is as follows:

Financial year (1 April to 31 March)	*£ million*
1997-98	10.9
1998-99	18.8
1999-2000	32.0
2000-01	39.4
2001-02	44.4
2002-03	57.0
2003-04	56.1
2004-05	33.7
2005-06	23.0
2006-07	17.9
2007-08	6.7
Total	339.7

The sum of the years differs marginally from the total shown owing to rounding.

Prior to Budget 2003, there were additional objects which covered sustainable waste management projects, which this question concerns. The fund was reformed in Budget 2003 following discussion with stakeholders. As well as extending the scope of the scheme from 1 October 2003 to include habitat creation projects on land that need not have public access, in order to support biodiversity, the objects relating to sustainable waste management were removed from 1 April 2003 and a proportion of the funding for the scheme was redirected to public spending on a new sustainable waste delivery programme.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many alcohol licences in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b)* the Chelmsford local authority area have been revoked on the grounds of sale of alcohol to children since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [232775]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate the reason why. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. This shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were three completed reviews in the Chelmsford licensing authority area which resulted in two premises licences revoked or club premises certificates being withdrawn and one premises licence or club premises certificate being suspended. The second statistical bulletin, published on 30 October 2008 and covering the period between April 2007 and March 2008, shows that there was one completed review in the Chelmsford licensing authority area which resulted in the premises licence or club premises certificate being suspended as well as other conditions added or modified.

Since 6 April 2007, a premises licence can be suspended by a court under Section 147B(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) for the sale or supply of alcohol, following an offence of persistently selling to underage children. No premises licenses have been suspended on these grounds in the Chelmsford licensing authority area for the most recent statistical bulletin period.

Arts Council England: Consultants

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were employed by Arts Council England as consultants in each year since 1997-98; and what the annual cost of such employment was in 2007-08 prices. [223884]

Barbara Follett: Information on the numbers of consultants employed is not available in the form requested due to structural changes at Arts Council England. Data in the tables have been provided by Arts Council England and include a wider analysis of fee-based work, both administration and arts driven, which forms a part of the fully consolidated Arts Council Lottery and grant-in-aid accounts from 2003-04 onwards.

Table 1

£000

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Arts Council fee expenditure 2003-04 to 2007-08					
Professional Fees	14,677	13,260	15,148	8,763	6,651
Consultants	5,940	4,390	464	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	1,681	645
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	185	244
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	699	1,475
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	384	703
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	30	117
Legal Fees	377	383	343	300	443
Assessors/Advisers Costs	83	831	3,181	481	111
Capital Scheme Assessment	1,481	1,266	746	305	546
Capital Scheme Monitoring	785	985	1,113	815	711
Consolidated fee related arts and administration spend 23,343	23,343	21,115	20,995	13,643	11,646
Grant in Aid funded administration and arts spend					
Professional Fees	5,998	5,637	7,822	7,481	4,001
Consultants	469	635	382	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	1,681	587
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	169	226
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	695	843
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	354	563
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	30	117
Legal Fees	181	210	105	103	374
Assessors/Advisers Costs	53	631	316	452	114
Capital Scheme Assessment					
Capital Scheme Monitoring					
Grant in Aid funded administration and arts spend	6,701	7,113	8,625	10,965	6,825
Creative Partnerships and Restricted Arts Projects					
Professional Fees	8,552	7,476	7,020	1,087	2,550
Consultants	5,440	3,755	82	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	0	6
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	7	6
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	4	593
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	30	70
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Fees	1	8	11	0	0

Table 1

					£000
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Assessors/Advisers Costs	26	196	2,865	24	—
Capital Scheme Assessment					
Capital Scheme Monitoring					
Creative Partnerships and restricted arts projects spend	14,019	11,435	9,978	1,152	3,225
Lottery administration spend					
Professional Fees	127	147	306	195	100
Consultants	31	0	0	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	0	52
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	9	12
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	0	39
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	0	70
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Fees	195	165	227	197	69
Assessors/Advisers Costs	4	4	0	5	-3
Capital Scheme Assessment	1,481	1,266	746	305	546
Capital Scheme Monitoring	785	985	1,113	815	711
Lottery administration spend	2,623	2,567	2,392	1,526	1,596

Table 2

					£000
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Arts Council Fee expenditure 2003-04 to 2007-08 in 2007-08 prices[1]					
Professional Fees	16,108	14,319	16,013	9,018	6,651
Consultants	6,519	4,741	490	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	1,730	645
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	190	244
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	719	1,475
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	395	703
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	31	117
Legal Fees	414	414	363	309	443
Assessors/Advisers Costs	91	897	3,363	495	111
Capital Scheme Assessment	1,625	1,367	789	314	546
Capital Scheme Monitoring	862	1,064	1,177	839	711
Consolidated fee related arts and administration spend[2]	25,619	22,801	22,194	14,040	11,646
Grant in Aid funded administration and arts spend					
Professional Fees	6,583	6,087	8,269	7,699	4,001
Consultants	515	686	404	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	1,730	587
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	174	226
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	715	843
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	364	563
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	31	117
Legal Fees	199	227	111	106	374
Assessors/Advisers Costs	58	681	334	465	114
Capital Scheme Assessment					
Capital Scheme Monitoring					
Grant in Aid funded administration and arts spend	7,354	7,681	9,117	11,284	6,825
Creative Partnerships and Restricted Arts Projects[3]					
Professional Fees	9,386	8,073	7,421	1,119	2,550
Consultants	5,970	4,055	87	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	0	6
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	7	6
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	4	593
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	31	70
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Fees	1	9	12	0	0
Assessors/Advisers Costs	29	212	3,029	25	0

Table 2

	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
Capital Scheme Assessment					
Capital Scheme Monitoring					
Creative Partnerships and restricted arts projects spend	15,386	12,348	10,148	1,186	3,225
Lottery administration spend[4]					
Professional Fees	139	159	323	201	100
Consultants	34	0	0	0	0
Consultants - IT	0	0	0	0	52
Consultants - Management Consultants	0	0	0	9	12
Consultants - Project Management	0	0	0	0	39
Consultants - Research	0	0	0	0	70
Consultants - Market Research	0	0	0	0	0
Legal Fees	214	178	240	203	69
Assessors/Advisers Costs	4	4	0	5	-3
Capital Scheme Assessment[5]	1,625	1,367	789	314	546
Capital Scheme Monitoring	862	1,064	1,177	839	711
Lottery administration spend	2,879	2,772	2,529	1,570	1,596

[1] Prior to 2005-06 the type of spend on consultants was not itemized in the ledgers

[2] Grant in aid expenditure includes arts contracts and administration spend

[3] The majority of "consultant and Fee" spend relates to Arts expenditure issued as grants starting from 2005-06

[4] Lottery fee costs are all administration costs

[5] The Arts Council employs specialist assessors and monitors to review Capital Projects

Note:

2002-03 accounts were consolidated from eleven organizations. ACE ledgers do not hold the organisation-wide detail.

Source:

Annual Accounts - Summary Trial Balance.

Arts Council England: Expenditure

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was spent by Arts Council England on *(a)* Creative Partnerships, *(b)* own art and *(c)* the Cultural Leadership programme in every year since each programme's inception in 2007-08 prices. [223885]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been provided by Arts Council England and is set out in the tables.

Expenditure—Creative Partnerships, Own Art and Cultural Leadership Programme

Year ending 31 March	*Creative Partnerships*	*Own Art*	*Cultural Leadership*	£000 *Total*
1998	—	—	—	—
1999	—	—	—	—
2000	—	—	—	—
2001	—	—	—	—
2002	237	—	—	237
2003	5,733	—	—	5,733
2004	23,731	—	—	23,731
2005	25,258	250	—	25,508
2006	34,081	250	83	34,414
2007	39,161	250	4,266	43,685
2008	36,978	250	5,582	42,826

Rebased using Treasury Deflators

Year ending 31 March	*Creative Partnerships*	*Own Art*	*Cultural Leadership*	£000 *Total*
1998	—	—	—	—
1999	—	—	—	—
2000	—	—	—	—
2001	—	—	—	—
2002	279	—	—	279
2003	6,546	—	—	6,546
2004	26,334	—	—	26,334
2005	27,275	270	—	27,545
2006	36,027	264	88	36,379
2007	40,302	266	4,390	44,957
2008	36,978	266	5,582	42,826

Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill (Draft)

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he expects to publish the draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill. [231346]

Barbara Follett: The draft Cultural Property (Armed Conflicts) Bill was published in January 2008. A copy can be found on the Department for Culture, Media and Sport website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3573.aspx

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [221952]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The mileage incurred during departmental travel is as follows:

(a) Domestic: 11,436

(b) Short haul: 37,058

(c) Long haul: 11,9870

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the cost was of maintaining his Department's website in the 2007-08 financial year; and what the forecast cost is of maintaining websites within his responsibility in the 2008-09 financial year. [232791]

Barbara Follett: The cost of maintaining the departmental website for the period 2007-08 was £8,741

This figure covers maintenance on a number of other Department websites. We expect the costs for 2008-09 to be in line with the previous year.

Departmental Press

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport which keywords or terms his Department has monitored in the media in each of the last three years. [224955]

Barbara Follett: The only search terms held by Department are those currently used to supply press cuttings. These are set out as follows:

Departmental

Department for Culture, Media and Sport /DCMS

Andy Burnham

Gerry Sutcliffe

Barbara Follett

Tessa Jowell

Stephen Carter

Jonathan Stephens

Dame Liz Forgan

Darra Singh

Parminder Vir

Sport (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

Sport (OICW sports policy, the running of sport in the UK and major international sports issues affecting sport in the UK.)

Sport in schools

Sport England

UK Sport

Drugs in sport

The Football Association/FA (OICW FA policy, NICW individual events.)

Illegal payments in UK football transfers

Wembley Stadium

Football hooliganism (OICW violence at football matches by British fans.)

Gambling (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The Gambling Act 2005

Gambling (OICW Government policy and social issues.)

The Tote

Lottery (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The National Lottery (NICW individual winners or coverage of ways to pick winning numbers.)

The National Lottery Commission

The Big Lottery Fund

Arts and Culture (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

Culture (OICW Government policy and funding of the arts.)

Museums and galleries (OICW Government policy, funding, stolen art articles and export bans. NICW single exhibitions.)

Performing arts (OICW Government policy and funding. Not reviews.)

Theatre (OICW issues concerning the health of the British theatre industry and individual theatres receiving public funds. Not reviews.)

Arts Council England

The UK art market and auctions (OICW the industry, NICW individual auctions unless they are particularly important or of high value)

The British Library

Libraries (OICW articles on the running and funding of libraries.)

The Parthenon Sculptures (aka Elgin Marbles, OICW the sculptures being held by the British Museum.)

The Poet Laureate

Architecture (NICW individual companies unless for a major building project.)

Heritage (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

English Heritage

World Heritage Sites

The Heritage Lottery Fund

Listed buildings (OICW the administration and upkeep of listed buildings and additions to the listed buildings register.)

Statues (OICW major events, celebrations and restorations of public statues)

Artefacts

Flag flying (OICW flag flying on public buildings.)

Spoliation (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

Spoliation

The Spoliation Observation Panel

Royal Parks (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The Royal Parks (Kensington Gardens, Hyde Park, St. James's Park, Green Park, Richmond Park, the Regent's Park, Bushy Park, Greenwich Park and Brompton Cemetery.)

The Royal Parks Agency

Broadcasting (Only substantive stories are included, a passing mention is not.)

Public service broadcasting

BBC, ITV, Channel 4, Channel 5 (OICW funding, the license fee, corporate or business issues and ratings. Not TV listings or programme reviews.)

Digital TV

Radio (OICW corporate news, regulation, listening statistics and digital radio, including the Digital Radio Working Group.)

Broadband TV (no pictures)

Audio Visual Media Services Directive (AVMS)

The BBC Trust

Ofcom (OICW broadcasting.)

Press (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The Press Complaints Commission

UK newspaper industry (OICW business/corporate issues and regulation issues.)

Film (Only substantive stories not a passing mention.)

The British film industry (Not reviews.)

Film piracy

The British Board of Film Classification (BBFC)

Films on the internet

The UK Film Council

The British Film Institute (BFI)

Film tax issues

Fashion Industry (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The UK Fashion industry (OICW UK fashion industry business issues. NICW product news or reviews.)

Tourism (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The UK tourism industry (OICW industry/business issues.)

Visit Britain

Visit London

Music Industry (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The UK music industry (OICW business/industry issues, music exports, copyright, downloading, music copyright, music downloads and music piracy.)

Live Music Forum

Licensing (Only substantive stories, not a passing mention.)

The Licensing Act 2003

Alcohol (OICW Government policy on alcohol and social issues.)

Lap dancing clubs (OICW licensing regulations.)

Video and Computer Games (Only substantive stories not a passing mention.)

Video and computer games (OICW industry news, education and violent or controversial games.)

Byron Review

Key to acronyms:

OICW: Only in connection with

NICW: Not in connection with

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on newspapers in each of the last five years. [231341]

Barbara Follett: The information in the following table represents expenditure incurred by the Department's Library and Information Centre on subscriptions for hard copy and online magazines, newspapers, books and other publications, access to specific research databases, the Stationery Office and other parliamentary information sources as well as legal online and hard copy updating services.

The amount spent by the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on newspapers can be disaggregated only at disproportionate cost.

	£
2003-04	157,676.65
2004-05	147,396.80
2005-06	147,303.56
2006-07	157,823.81
2007-08	172,769.84
2008-09 (to date)	149,894.41

Note:

The 2008-09 figures have yet to be audited and are therefore subject to change.

English Heritage: Educational Visits

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many education visits to English Heritage properties in respect for which free admission was granted there were in each of the last five years. [230078]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage state that the number of education visits to their properties in each of the last five years were as follows:

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Number of free educational visits	497,000	475,850	485,000	470,600	423,000
Number taking part in discovery visits	—	—	[1]—	10,400	27,000
Total education visits	497,000	475,850	485,000	481,000	450,000

[1] Programme launched

Admission for educational groups to English Heritage sites is always free. If, in addition to their visit, schools wish to book a special facilitated discovery visit, a charge of £60 is made towards the teaching costs of these sessions.

The introduction of discovery visits was one of a range of responses made by English Heritage to pressures which have resulted in a gradual reduction in the number of education visits being made to its sites. Other responses have included free downloadable learning resources, support for teachers making risk assessments, and investment in new and improved education spaces at, for example, Lullingstone Roman Villa, Battle Abbey, Down House and Audley End.

Licensed Premises

Mr. Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will review the number of temporary event notices for which licensed premises can apply; and if he will make a statement. [232242]

Mr. Sutcliffe: We currently have no plans to review the number of temporary event notices that can be given in relation to licensed premises.

Licensed Premises: Security

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether his Department has provided guidance to licensing authorities on the use of ID Clubscan scanners in licensed premises as a condition of entry into the premises. [231634]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Department has not provided any guidance to licensing authorities on this matter.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228545]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Under the disability equality duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, DCMS and our public sector bodies listed in the associated Regulations are required to publish and implement disability equality schemes. These are plans setting out how we will carry out the disability equality duty, monitor and report on progress. In particular this includes our arrangements for gathering information on the effect of our policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The public sector bodies sponsored by my Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

In addition, and in line with the disability equality duty, a report is published every three years to show: progress towards disability equality in my policy sector; and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public bodies within my policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with a mental health condition, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report will be published by December 2008.

Full information about both the equality scheme and the annual report on progress can be found on the DCMS website.

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/3596.aspx

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5082.aspx

Overseas Visitors

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the average length of stay was for overseas visitors to the UK in each year since 1997. [231348]

Barbara Follett: The average length of stay for overseas visitors to the United Kingdom each year since 1997 is shown in the following table:

	Average length of stay (Nights)
1997	8.7
1998	9.0
1999	8.3
2000	8.1
2001	8.3
2002	8.2
2003	8.2
2004	8.2
2005	8.3
2006	8.4

Source:
International Passenger Survey (ONS).

Figures for 2007 are still to be published.

Tourism

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment Visit Britain has made of the impact of legislation and regulation on the tourism industry; and if he will make a statement. [231347]

Barbara Follett: VisitBritain has made no recent assessment of the impact of legislation and regulation on the tourism industry. Through the annual simplification plan process, the Government are taking action to reduce unnecessary administrative burdens on business arising from legislation. Any new legislation must go through a separate impact assessment process which considers the costs and benefits of the proposed regulation. DCMS will continue to liaise with the tourism and hospitality industry on better regulation matters.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when his Department plans to respond to the eighth report of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee, HC 133-I, on tourism. [232212]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Government response to the eighth report of the Culture, Media and Sport Committee on tourism was tabled on Monday 20 October.

UK Sport: Employment Agencies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* UK Sport and *(b)* Sport England spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [231372]

Mr. Sutcliffe: UK Sport has provided the information in Table A for spend on recruitment consultants. The recruitment companies used were:

Morgan Hunt
Michael Page
Page Personnel
Ashdown Group
Odgers Ray and Berndtson
Anna Gillet
Covent Garden Bureau.

Table A

Financial Year	*Cost of recruitment agencies (£)*
2003-04	9,324.62
2004-05	60,825.28
2005-06	67,655.99
2006-07	5,567.50
2007-08	54,302.87
Total	197,676.26

Sport England has provided the information in Table B, which includes spend on recruitment consultants and external recruitment advertising as they are unable to disaggregate the various costs. The recruitment and advertising companies used were:

Dynamic Finance plc
John Wild Associates
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Excel Recruitment Ltd.
Fairstaff Agency Ltd.
Graduate Prospects
Hays Construction and Property
Hays Office Support
Headway Recruitment
jobswithballs.com
Michael Page UK Ltd.

Precise Selection Ltd.
Price Guy Cholerton Ltd.
Robert Half Ltd.
Spherion Ltd.
The Sports Recruitment Company Ltd.
BSS Recruitment
Greater Manchester Newspapers Ltd.
Guardian Media Group plc
Hays Human Resources
LCL Media
Lighthouse Adcomms LLP
Nigel Lynn Associates Ltd.
Odgers Ray and Berndston
Pearson Press Ltd.
Reed Employment
Spring Personnel Ltd.
SRG Select (trading name for sportweb.com.ltd)
Badenoch and Clark
Chase Anderson Ltd.
COI Communications
DP Media
Interim Performers
Page Personnel
Rockpools People and Performance
TMG CRB The Media Group.

Table B

Financial Year	*Cost of recruitment agencies (£)*
2003-04	96,604
2004-05	256,756
2005-06	411,034
2006-07	529,888
2007-08	465,123
Total	1,759,405

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Aviation: Trade Competitiveness

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects Ofcom to publish its analysis of responses to its consultation Applying Spectrum Pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical Sectors; and if he will make a statement. [230021]

Ian Pearson: Ofcom's consultation on applying Administered Incentive Pricing to the Maritime and Aeronautical sectors runs from 30 July 2008 to 30 October 2008. The timing of any analysis of responses depends on the level of response Ofcom receives. Ofcom states in the consultation document that it is an initial consultation and that generally it aims to publish a summary of responses within two weeks of the consultation closing.

Chief Construction Officer

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the proposed *(a)* functions and *(b)* objectives of the proposed new Chief Construction Officer are. [229449]

Ian Pearson: Full details of the potential terms and scope of the role will be confirmed following engagement with both industry and public sector bodies as part of the operational efficiency programme announced by my right hon. Friend the Chief Secretary to the Treasury earlier this year.

Exports: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance his Department provides to UK businesses wishing to trade with or invest in Israel with regard to not supporting illegal Israeli settlements. [229944]

Mr. Thomas: UK trade and investment provides a range of support services to companies wishing to trade with or invest in Israel. The Department is not involved in the negotiation or agreement of individual contracts following this support.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many and what proportion of *(a)* households and *(b)* individuals are in fuel poverty in each (i) county and (ii) region in England; what change this represents from the equivalent figures in 2002; what assistance his Department makes available to (A) families and (B) individuals to help with fuel costs; what the average amount paid by his Department is per (1) family and (2) individual experiencing fuel poverty; what plans he has to change this amount during the next six months; what conditions determine the amount received; what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [223425]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 10 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

The most recently published data on households in fuel poverty relate to 2005 and show that, in England, there are around 1.5 million fuel poor households, approximately 7 per cent. of all households. The lowest level at which this data are broken down annually is by Government office region. Estimates of fuel poverty at this level are published online and shown below. The Government are planning to publish updated figures shortly.

Government office region	*Number of fuel poor households 2005 (Thousand)*	*Percentage of households that are fuel poor*
North East	126	11.5
Yorkshire and Humberside	169	8.0
North West	268	9.2
East Midlands	145	8.1
West Midlands	197	8.9
South West	181	8.3
East England	155	6.7
South East	160	4.9
London	120	3.9
Total	1,529	7.2

No regional figures exist for 2002, so comparisons have been made for 2001. The following table sets out differences between the figures for 2005 and corresponding numbers for 2001. Note that in the table, a positive number indicates a rise in numbers to 2005 and a negative value represents a reduction.

Government office region	*Number of fuel poor households (Thousand)*	*Percentage of households that are fuel poor*
North East	21	1.3
Yorkshire and Humberside	-69	-3.2
North West	-9	-0.7
East Midlands	-15	-0.9
West Midlands	-31	-2.0
South West	-20	-1.5
East England	16	0.6
South East	-55	-1.8
London	-28	-1.1
Total	-191	-1.2

Fuel poverty is not measured at an individual level.

Vulnerable households are helped by the Warm Front scheme in England which provides grants to low income households for energy efficiency measures to their homes. Just over £800 million has been allocated to this programme over the current three-year spending period. The Government announced recently an extra £74 million over the next two years for this scheme.

Other forms of assistance include the winter fuel payments introduced by the Government in 1997 to help pensioners. The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) spends around £2 billion a year on this programme. For this winter only, an extra investment of £575 million will be made to fund an additional payment of £50 to eligible households with someone aged 60-79 and £100 to eligible households with someone aged 80 or over. DWP also fund the cold weather payments, paying over £20 million in total over the last five years to eligible households experiencing sustained periods of cold weather. A further £1.5 billion will be provided over the next three years by the energy companies under their carbon emissions reduction target (CERT) obligations to fund energy efficiency improvements in a priority group of low income and elderly customers. In addition, in April my Department secured the individual agreement of the six largest energy suppliers to increase the level of their collective spend on social programmes, which include social tariffs and rebates, to £150 million a year by 2010-11.

On 11 September, the Government announced further help, with an extra £1 billion package to tackle fuel poverty. The proposed new package includes £910 million towards the National Home Energy Saving Programme. This £910 million is made up of a 20 per cent. increase in funding for the existing CERT programme, with the remainder coming from a new Community Energy Saving Programme to be funded by energy suppliers and electricity generators. Throughout the country, a partnership of local councils, voluntary organisations and energy companies will carry out house-to-house calls to offer energy efficiency help in some of the most deprived areas of the UK. In addition, the Government will be increasing the cold weather payments from £8.50 to £25 per week for winter 2008-09.

The Secretary of State has regular meetings with the Chancellor to discuss a range of issues, including fuel poverty.

Manufacturing Industries: Employment

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent steps have been taken by the Government to increase levels of manufacturing employment. [229396]

Ian Pearson: The UK is the world's sixth largest manufacturer—the industry accounts for over half our exports, contributes £150 billion to the economy and around three million jobs. Manufacturing industries spent 75 per cent. of all business R and D in 2006 and the sector attracts more foreign direct investment than every other country in Europe and globally is second to the USA.

The Government are strongly committed to providing support to the manufacturing sector and its Manufacturing Strategy: New Challenges, New Opportunities, launched on 8 September 2008, sets out the combined views of Government and industry of what the sector needs for success in the long term.

Nuclear Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of enhanced UK domestic nuclear generating capacity on UK dependence on imported gas; and if he will make a statement. [222438]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

We believe that nuclear power should be part of a future low-carbon electricity-generating mix so that we can reduce our carbon emissions and secure our energy supplies as the UK becomes a net importer of energy. Our thinking is set out in our Nuclear White Paper, in particular paragraphs 2.26-2.42 and Annex A, which is available on our website at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/sources/nuclear/whitepaper/page42765.html.

Trade Unions: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much in grants has been paid by the Government to trades unions in each year since 1997. [229380]

Mr. McFadden: Annual breakdowns of the expenditure before 2004 are not available. The following tables therefore give (a) the commitments to unions under the Partnership at Work Fund and, (b) actual payments under the Strategic Partnership Fund and the Union Modernisation Fund.

(a) Funds committed to unions 2000-03

Union	*Year in which commitment made*	*Amount given (£)*	*Purpose*
AEEU	2000	49,912	Partnership Fund[1]
Unison	2000	32,500	Partnership Fund
Community and Youth Workers Union	2000	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2000	13,440	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	14,450	Partnership Fund
TUC	2000	24,300	Partnership Fund
Scottish TUC	2000	37,575	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	20,000	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Midwives	2000	34,000	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	30,000	Partnership Fund
MSF	2000	26,405	Partnership fund
Unison	2000	50,000	Partnership fund
TGWU	2001	50,000	Partnership Fund
Unison	2001	14,000	Partnership Fund
Numast	2002	36,800	Partnership Fund
Amicus	2002	47,360	Partnership Fund
TUC	2002	43,015	Partnership Fund
TGWU	2002	42,276	Partnership Fund
Royal College of Nursing	2002	18,650	Partnership Fund
Unison	2003	50,000	Partnership Fund

(b) Funds paid to unions

Union	*Amount given (£)*	*Purpose*
Year ended 31 March 2005		
TUC	26,472	Strategic Partnership Fund[2]
GPMU	3,880	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	96,871	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	37,592	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	12,544	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	61,045	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2006		
TUC	21,512	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	108,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
Amicus	261,381	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	34,270	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	69,898	Strategic Partnership Fund
Year ended 31 March 2007		
GMB	15,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
TUC	68,000	Strategic Partnership Fund
UCATT	4,443	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	23,340.53	Union Modernisation Fund[3]
Wales TUC	12,252.64	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Teachers	7,377.84	Union Modernisation Fund
Royal College of Midwives	43,329.35	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Finance Staff	7,083.30	Union Modernisation Fund
United Road Transport Union	24,330.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Community and District Nursing Association	8,125.65	Union Modernisation Fund
British Dental Association	6,047.75	Union Modernisation Fund
Connect	28,647.63	Union Modernisation Fund
USDAW	104,011.73	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	32,489.00	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Journalists	11,475.34	Union Modernisation Fund
ASLEF	13,232.25	Union Modernisation Fund
General Federation of Trade Unions	23,284.48	Union Modernisation Fund
Portman Group Staff Association	6,070.70	Union Modernisation Fund

(b) Funds paid to unions

Union	*Amount given (£)*	*Purpose*
Year ended 31 March 2008		
Amicus	286,881.41	Strategic Partnership Fund
PCS	17,500	Strategic Partnership Fund
GMB	106,532.92	Union Modernisation Fund
Communication Workers Union	28,008.85	Union Modernisation Fund
Wales TUC	29,708.34	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Teachers	20,285.64	Union Modernisation Fund
Royal College of Midwives	88,135.28	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Finance Staff	41,776.70	Union Modernisation Fund
Unity (CATU)	15,192.76	Union Modernisation Fund
United Road Transport Union	50,670.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Equity	22,737.50	Union Modernisation Fund
Transport and General Workers Union	47,535.05	Union Modernisation Fund
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	17,241.06	Union Modernisation Fund
Community and District Nursing Association	6,418.37	Union Modernisation Fund
Community	63,453.00	Union Modernisation Fund
British Dental Association	15,329.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Transport Salaried Staffs' Association	46,618.70	Union Modernisation Fund
Connect	28,988.12	Union Modernisation Fund
USDAW	82,811.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Prospect	78,621.69	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Rail, Maritime and Transport Workers	161,245.00	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Journalists	43,145.52	Union Modernisation Fund
Trades Union Congress	62,695.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Community and Youth Workers Union	16,915.96	Union Modernisation Fund
Amicus	128,105.62	Union Modernisation Fund
ASLEF	58,245.47	Union Modernisation Fund
General Federation of Trade Unions	74,623.90	Union Modernisation Fund
Portman Group Staff Association	9,533.80	Union Modernisation Fund
Musicians' Union	17,788.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	2,845.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT)	5,983.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Equity	7,691.30	Union Modernisation Fund
From 31 March to 22 October 2008		
General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)	15,122.48	Union Modernisation Fund
Trades Union Congress (TUC)	22,020.16	Union Modernisation Fund
Musicians' Union	14,426.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Association of Teachers and Lecturers (ATL)	326.02	Union Modernisation Fund
UNISON	22,633.11	Union Modernisation Fund
Association of Professionals in Education and Children's Trusts (Aspect)	5,100.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Chartered Society of Physiotherapy	8,682.00	Union Modernisation Fund
ACCORD	42,684.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Broadcasting Entertainment Cinematograph and Theatre Union (BECTU)	40,957.97	Union Modernisation Fund
First Division Association (FDA)	27,437.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Trades Union Congress (TUC)	4,897.00	Union Modernisation Fund
Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians (UCATT)	7,957.50	Union Modernisation Fund
General Federation of Trade Unions (GFTU)	11,053.83	Union Modernisation Fund
Nautilus UK	8,199.37	Union Modernisation Fund
Equity	30,725.87	Union Modernisation Fund
Amicus the union	17,606.56	Union Modernisation Fund
Retained Firefighters Union	51,930.68	Union Modernisation Fund
Nationwide Group Staff Union	5,875.00	Union Modernisation Fund
GMB	63,667.08	Union Modernisation Fund
Communication Workers Union	116,159.35	Union Modernisation Fund
Bakers, Food and Allied Workers Union	33,405.42	Union Modernisation Fund
Wales TUC	83,681.18	Union Modernisation Fund
Lloyds TSB Group Union	22,322.60	Union Modernisation Fund
National Union of Teachers	35,267.02	Union Modernisation Fund
British Dental Association	780.25	Union Modernisation Fund
Prospect	26,197.78	Union Modernisation Fund

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day his Department has answered on the due date in the current session of Parliament to date. [226895]

Mr. Simon: The Department has received 259 named day questions this session of which 104 (40 per cent.) questions have been answered on time. There are a range of improvements under way to improve the Department's performance.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of university applications made by students at *(a)* maintained schools and *(b)* further education colleges were to Russell Group universities in the last 12 months. [232260]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information, covering applications for entry in autumn 2007, are shown in the table. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

This Government are committed to increasing and widening participation in higher education, including to our most selective institutions. We want people from all backgrounds to be able and willing to go on to whatever HE best suits their potential and merit, a mission that we know is shared with the HE sector. There is much that this Government support to help make this happen, such as the Aimhigher Programme, and higher education institutions themselves do many things to reach out to students from a wide range of backgrounds.

Applications[1] to full-time undergraduate courses at UK institutions: by previous school type and type of institution—year of entry 2007

	Type of institution					
	Russell Group		*Other institutions*		*Total*	
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Previous school type						
Maintained schools[2]	249,286	29.7	591,315	70.3	840,601	100.0
FE/HE colleges[3]	138,707	17.8	638,998	82.2	777,705	100.0
Independent schools	104,040	50.3	102,857	49.7	206,897	100.0
Other[4]	10,850	27.1	29,227	72.9	40,077	100.0
Unknown	28,140	19.2	118,575	80.8	146,715	100.0
Total	531,023	26.4	1,480,972	73.6	2,011,995	100.0

[1] In 2007, each applicant could submit up to six applications. The figures cover applications from students domiciled in the UK.

[2] Maintained schools include comprehensive, grammar, sixth form centres, and other maintained.

[3] Including sixth form colleges.

[4] Includes adult colleges, language schools, special schools and miscellaneous institutions.

Source:
UCAS

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* nationals of other EU member states and *(c)* non-EU nationals were (i) applicants and (ii) accepted applicants for university degree courses in (A) chemistry, (B) physics, (C) mathematics, (D) computer science and (E) engineering for the 2008-09 academic year. [232262]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information, covering applicants who had been accepted for entry as at 15 October, is shown in the following table. Comparable figures for applicants are not held centrally. The figures are taken from data collected by the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) which are limited to students who apply to full-time undergraduate courses via the UCAS application system. The figures do not therefore cover part-time students, nor those full-time students who apply directly to higher education institutions.

Accepted applicants to full-time degree courses as at 15 October by subject and home domicile—year of entry 2008

	Home domicile of student			
	UK	*EU*	*Other overseas*	*Total*
Chemistry	3,601	154	249	4,004
Physics	2,964	185	176	3,325
Mathematics	5,376	272	773	6,421
Computer Science	9,247	621	717	10,585
Engineering	15,373	1,857	4,787	22,017

Accepted applicants to full-time degree courses as at 15 October by subject and home domicile—year of entry 2008

Note:
Final figures for 2008 entry will be released by UCAS in mid-January.
Source:
UCAS

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what discussions he has had with universities on the account to be taken in university admission arrangements of an A-level in a modern foreign language, if a student applying to a university is *(a)* from the country where that language is indigenous, *(b)* from a community in the UK where that language is spoken and *(c)* is fluent in the language because it is spoken at home; and if he will make a statement; [232984]

(2) what information his Department holds on which universities do not accept A-levels in *(a)* modern Hebrew, *(b)* Gujarati, *(c)* Hindi and *(d)* Urdu as a qualification towards their minimum entry requirements; and if he will make a statement; [232987]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with universities on the relative value of A-levels in each modern language in applications to universities; and if he will make a statement. [232988]

Mr. Lammy: I have had no discussions with universities on the subject requirements for student admissions. These are for each university to decide on the basis of the academic and professional needs of each course. If universities do have specific entry requirements for particular courses, these may be shown on their websites, and are generally replicated on the course information of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service website. The Department does not hold that information.

We have made it clear however that admissions policies should be open and transparent. I am aware that the Equality Challenge Unit and Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) have recently written to higher education institutions about the need to ensure that admissions procedures do not breach equality legislation in terms of the treatment of students with native language qualifications.

Schools, in partnership with local Connexions services, are expected to provide young people with high quality and impartial, personalised information, advice and guidance about learning and careers that meets the needs of the individual. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is currently working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools to pilot approaches that will help all teachers to provide high quality advice on progression opportunities from their own subjects.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many part-time undergraduates were awarded full *(a)* fees and *(b)* maintenance grant in each year since 2005. [232392]

Mr. Lammy: The rate of part-time fee grant depends on the intensity of the course. There are three maximum grant levels, for those studying at a rate equivalent to 50-59 per cent., 60-74 per cent., and 75 per cent. or more of a full-time course.

Part-time fee grant awarded by value, England 2005/06[1]

Value of grant	*Students*	*Percentage*
Below £590	21,000	63
£590 (maximum for 50-59 per cent. intensity)	5,000	16
£591 to £709	1,000	3
£710 (maximum for 60-74 per cent. intensity)	1,600	5
£711 to £884	1,700	5
£885 (maximum for 75 per cent. or more intensity)	2,900	8
Total	34,000	100

[1] Approved applicants awarded grants by academic year. Student numbers rounded to nearest 100. Total may not agree with sum of component parts due to rounding.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

Part-time fee grant awarded by value, England 2006/07[1]

Value of grant	*Students*	*Percentage*
Below £750	30,000	70
£750 (maximum for 50-59 per cent. intensity)	3,600	9
£751 to £899	2,300	5
£900 (maximum for 60-74 per cent. intensity)	1,800	4
£901 to £1,124	3,300	8
£1,125 (maximum for 75 per cent. or more intensity)	1,800	4
Total	42,600	100

[1] Approved applicants awarded grants by academic year. Student numbers rounded to nearest 100. Total may not agree with sum of component parts due to rounding.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

Part-time students are not eligible for a maintenance grant. A grant is available to help with course costs.

Part-time course grant awarded, England 2005/06 and 2006/07[1]

	2005/06		*2006/07*	
	Students	*Percentage*	*Students*	*Percentage*
Below full course grant	500	1	500	1
Full course grant (£250)	36,700	99	44,400	99
Total	37,100	100	44,900	100

[1] Approved applicants awarded grants by academic year. Student numbers rounded to nearest 100. Total may not agree with sum of component parts due to rounding.

Source:

Student Loans Company and Open University applications data

Data are not yet available for 2007/08, and are expected to be collated in January 2009. Statutory support for part-time students was first introduced in 2000/01. Unlike full-time students, many part-time students are in full-time employment and many receive full fee support from their employer.

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many undergraduates entering higher education come from households with an income between *(a)* £50,020 and *(b)* £60,050 in 2008-09. [233052]

Mr. Lammy: Complete information on household incomes of students is not available centrally.

During November the Student Loans Company will publish the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (Provisional). This will include early provisional information on grants in 2008/09 and complete information on grants in academic year 2007/08.

In compliance with the National Statistics framework, information is embargoed until publication of the Statistical First Release.

Students: Grants

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of undergraduates entering higher education courses in 2008-09 received a maintenance grant of £50. [233051]

Mr. Lammy: The requested information is not yet available.

During November the Student Loans Company will publish the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (Provisional). This will include early provisional information on grants in 2008/09 and complete information on grants in academic year 2007/08.

In compliance with the National Statistics framework, information is embargoed until publication of the Statistical First Release.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Academies: Personal Social and Health Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to make personal, social and health education a compulsory subject for academies; and if he will make a statement. [233125]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are no plans to make personal, social, and health education a compulsory subject in academies. However, we expect all academies to teach a broad and balanced curriculum, and ensure the curriculum meets the needs of their pupils.

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what the average age was of children at adoption in each of the last 10 years, broken down by ethnicity; [231650]

(2) for how many children of each *(a)* ethnicity and *(b)* age was it decided that adoption was in their best interest in each of the last 10 years. [231651]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the date a decision is made that adoption is in the best interest is currently collected retrospectively only for those children who are adopted. However we shall be making a change to our data collection from 2008-09 which will mean we would be able to provide this information for children when the decision is made, irrespective of whether the adoption has taken place.

The available information on characteristics of looked-after-children who are adopted can be found in table E1, taken from the Statistical First Release (SFR 23/2008) entitled 'Children Looked After in England (Including Adoption and Care Leavers) Year Ending 31 March 2008'. This shows the number of looked-after-children adopted during the years ending 31 March 2004 to 2008 by gender, age at adoption, ethnic origin, category of need, final legal status, duration of final period of care and age on starting final period of care.

The SFR is located at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000810/index.shtml

and table E1 can be found within the first set of Excel tables on the website.

This table includes information for the last five years and shows the average age at adoption. Information for each of the last 10 years and a breakdown by both age and ethnicity can be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Children: Databases

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families the children of which groups of people will be excluded from having their details on ContactPoint; and if he will make a statement. [232341]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: ContactPoint will hold basic identifying information on all children in England until they reach 18. In the case of young people with learning disabilities or those leaving care, the record can be retained up to the age of 25, with their consent.

Children visiting England for their or their families' holidays will not be recorded on ContactPoint. Provision has been made for the retention of a child's record on ContactPoint for up to three years if they leave England with the full intention to return. This is to ensure that, for example, the records of children of service personnel or diplomats are not lost from the system when they are posted outside England with their family.

Class Sizes: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the pupil-teacher ratio was in each local education authority in the East of England at key stage *(a)* one, *(b)* two and *(c)* three in each year since 1997. [232620]

Jim Knight: Pupil-teacher ratios figures are not available by key stage because the teacher numbers from which they are derived are collected by phase of education only. Figures by phase of education are available through the following links for each local authority in England back to January 1998:

January 1998 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000130/index.shtml

January 1999 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000109/index.shtml

January 2000 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000192/index.shtml

January 2001 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DBA/VOL/v000288/index.shtml

January 2002 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000359/index.shtml

January 2003 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000417/index.shtml

January 2004 (Table 7a)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000495/index.shtml

January 2005 (Table 21)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000603/index.shtml

January 2006 (Table 25)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000603/index.shtml

January 2007 (Table 25)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

January 2008 (Table 27)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average *(a)* middle and *(b)* upper school class size was in each constituency in the East of England in each year since 1997. [233621]

Jim Knight: The available information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W, on the General Certificate of Secondary Education, if he will give an itemised breakdown of the calculation used to estimate the cost of providing the requested information in full. [233079]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1305-06W.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils eligible for free school meals did not obtain a *(a)* C grade or above in any GCSE, *(b)* C grade or above in mathematics GCSE and *(c)* C grade or above in English GCSE in 2008. [232418]

Jim Knight: The information required to answer this PQ can be derived from the National Pupil Database. Analysis of the 2008 key stage 4 data will be available once the NPD Statistical First Release has been published in December.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228089]

Jim Knight: Inspection of provision related to the Department's remit is the responsibility of Ofsted. At the end of 1998, Ofsted, as the Office for Standards in Education, employed 203 Her Majesty's Inspectors, all of whom were responsible for school inspection. It subsequently took on responsibility for the regulation and inspection of child care, and the inspection of 16-19 provision in further education colleges. In April 2007, Ofsted became the Office for Standards in Education, Children's Services and Skills. Its remit expanded further to include adult learning, children's social care and the administration of Cafcass, the children and families courts advisory support service. As of 30 September 2008, it employed 375 Her Majesty's Inspectors of Education, Children's Services and Skills, 663 Childcare Inspectors and 172 Social Care Inspectors.

Languages: Assessments

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families in which modern languages are *(a)* A-levels and *(b)* GCSE qualifications available; and if he will make a statement. [232966]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: GCSE and A-level qualifications are available in the following modern languages: Arabic, Chinese, Japanese, Modern Greek, Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Panjabi, Polish, Dutch, Gujarati, Persian, Portuguese, Turkish, French, German, Spanish, Italian, Urdu and Russian.

New GCSE specifications, including new arrangements for oral assessment, will be taught from September 2009. Revised A-level specifications were introduced for first teaching from September 2008.

Learning and Skills Improvement Service

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department contributes towards supporting the Learning and Skills Improvement Service. [233085]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In 2008-09 this Department has provided £45.42 million in specific grants to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

Learning Disability: Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions his Department has had with the Ministry of Justice on improving support for children with learning difficulties in young offender institutions. [232348]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice have joint responsibility for policy for youth justice, including education and related services such as support for young people with learning difficulties. The Government published the Youth Crime Action Plan in July which included a commitment to consider how we best meet young offenders' special educational needs in juvenile custody. The document noted that plans will be developed within the context of the evidence and recommendations from the Bercow Review of provision for speech, language and communication needs, and Sir Jim Rose's recommendations on the identification and teaching of children with dyslexia.

Mathematics: Teachers

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage *(a)* more mathematics graduates to enter the teaching profession and *(b)* more graduates to become mathematics teachers. [233279]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The measures to increase the number of teachers of mathematics focus both on increasing the number of mathematics graduates entering teaching and on enabling graduates of other subjects to train to become specialist teachers of mathematics.

Measures include:

Mathematics is a key priority in the targeted cross-media recruitment campaign promoting teaching as a career;

£9,000 training bursaries and £5,000 "Golden Hello" payments for mathematics trainees who go on to work in a state school;

Subject knowledge enhancement (SKE) courses—intensive conversion courses of four to nine months for graduates of other subjects to retrain as teachers of mathematics: this programme is being doubled in 2009;

Transition to Teaching, a new programme which works with employers to target graduates leaving employment and attract them into teaching.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many mathematics graduates entered the teaching profession at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary level in the last period for which figures are available. [233280]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data relating to all mathematics graduates entering the teaching profession is not held centrally.

The following table shows the number of mainstream final year postgraduate secondary initial teacher training (ITT) trainees for whom the subject of their ITT training was mathematics and who have a first degree or a related degree in mathematics, and are known to have entered a teaching post six months after gaining qualified teacher status (QTS). Figures exclude those who have trained through employment based routes, and those seeking teaching posts, not seeking such posts, or with an unknown destination.

A similar analysis is not available for primary ITT Trainees.

Number of final year mathematics secondary-ITT trainees known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS

	First degree in mathematics	*First degree in mathematics related subject*
2006/07	610	410

Notes:

1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes (EBR).
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Data relating to the employment status of trainees through EBR is not currently collected.
4. Performance profiles data is collected at the end of a trainees first year, therefore 2007/08 data is collected in autumn 2008 and will be published in July 2009.
5. The table only covers those who hold a first degree in the subject of their ITT training course, it does not cover those who have a first degree in mathematics but are entering an ITT course which is not mathematics.
6. There are additional postgraduate trainees on mathematics ITT courses where the first degree is unknown, so there are potentially more mathematics graduates entering teaching posts.
7. Figures include trainees who enter maintained schools, non-maintained schools and schools where the sector is unknown.
8. Trainees known not to be employed in teaching posts six months after gaining QTS include those who are seeking a teaching post and those who are not seeking a teaching post and those with an unknown destination.
9. The figures only cover those who are known to enter a teaching post six months after gaining QTS; therefore those who enter teaching after this will not be covered. This will also not include graduates who enter teaching who are not newly qualified teachers.

Source:

TDA's Performance Profiles.

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils obtained level 2 or above in key stage 1 *(a)* English and *(b)* mathematics tests in 2003 but did not obtain level 4 or above in key stage 2 tests in 2007. [232420]

Jim Knight: The figures required can be found in the following table.

	Number of pupils			
	Achieving level 2 or above in KS1 in 2003, and not achieving level 4 or above in KS2 in 2007	*Achieving level 2 or above in KS1 in 2003, and achieving level 4 or above in KS2 in 2007*	*Achieving level 2 or above in KS1 in 2003*	*With eligible results for both KS1 in 2003 and KS2 in 2007*
English[1]	47,998	412,891	441,736	572,283
Mathematics	27,723	421,368	424,518	574,850

[1] English is not a tested subject at key stage 1 and has been calculated from the results in reading and writing.

Primary Education: Class Sizes

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were being taught in primary schools with over 800 pupils in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [232419]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the table.

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number (headcount) of pupils in primary schools with more than 800 pupils[2]—position in January each year 1997 and 2008—England

	1997	*2008*
Number of pupils in primary schools	[illegible]	4,087,790
Number of primary schools	[illegible]	17,205
Number of primary schools with more than 800 pupils	10	18
Percentage of primary schools with more than 800 pupils	0.1	0.1
Number of pupils in primary schools with more than 800 pupils	9,570	15,760

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number (headcount) of pupils in primary schools with more than 800 pupils[2]—position in January each year 1997 and 2008—England

	1997	*2008*
Percentage of pupils in primary schools with more than 800 pupils	0.2	0.4

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Excludes dually registered pupils.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families for what activities infant schools may form classes of over 30 pupils; and if he will make a statement. [233162]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Legislation limits the size of an infant class during an 'ordinary teaching session' to 30 pupils per school teacher. Section 4 of the School Standards and Framework Act 1998 states that an 'ordinary teaching session' does not include a school assembly or other school activity usually conducted with large groups of pupils. We do not prescribe every type of activity that would not be classed as an ordinary teaching session, but guidance to schools and local authorities provides the following examples: PE/games, music, singing, drama, watching television and listening to the radio.

Primary Education: Disadvantaged

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools have more than *(a)* 30 per cent., *(b)* 50 per cent. and *(c)* 70 per cent. of pupils eligible for free school meals. [232416]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information is given in the following table:

Maintained primary schools[1]: Number of schools by percentage of pupils eligible for free school meals[2], position in January 2008, England

	Number of schools
More than 30 per cent.	2,341
Of which:	
More than 50 per cent.	402
More than 70 per cent.	16

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes pupils with sole and dual registration of all ages.

Source:

School Census.

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department plans to spend per school pupil in each local education authority in the East of England in 2008-09; and how much was spent in each academic year since 1997-98. [232625]

Jim Knight: The revenue funding figures per pupil aged three to 19 for each local authority in the East of England for years 1997-98 to 2005-06 are as follows. These figures are in real terms.

	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*
Bedfordshire	3,100	3,160	3,280	3,570	3,770	3,880	3,950	4,100	4,300
Cambridgeshire	2,940	3,020	3,180	3,400	3,530	3,610	3,790	3,960	4,150
Essex	3,200	3,260	3,370	3,620	3,800	3,890	3,990	4,160	4,320
Hertfordshire	3,200	3,260	3,360	3,610	3,780	3,880	3,950	4,110	4,260
Luton	3,410	3,450	3,630	3,880	4,080	4,210	4,400	4,540	4,780
Norfolk	3,100	3,150	3,280	3,540	3,710	3,810	3,900	4,060	4,250
Peterborough	3,190	3,270	3,450	3,690	3,830	3,980	4,180	4,400	4,600
Southend-on-Sea	3,310	3,340	3,460	3,720	3,920	4,030	4,100	4,270	4,450
Suffolk	3,040	3,070	3,180	3,420	3,570	3,680	3,750	3,910	4,090
Thurrock	3,360	3,430	3,540	3,780	3,990	4,110	4,230	4,430	4,540

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the dedicated schools grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on education formula spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the local government finance settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's local government finance settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described, this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year.

The figures as follows are for all funded pupils aged three to 19.

	DSG baseline plus grants	*DSG plus grants*		
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bedfordshire	3,990	4,110	4,250	4,280
Cambridgeshire	3,850	3,980	4,110	4,160
Essex	4,030	4,150	4,290	4,320
Hertfordshire	4,060	4,150	4,290	4,370
Luton	4,430	4,630	4,800	4,810
Norfolk	4,000	4,110	4,250	4,280
Peterborough	4,300	4,430	4,580	4,650
Southend-on-Sea	4,240	4,360	4,480	4,490
Suffolk	3,870	4,000	4,160	4,200
Thurrock	4,180	4,390	4,550	4,560

Note:

1. Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 September 2008.

Reading: Teaching Methods

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of the *(a)* short and *(b)* potential longer-term effect on children's reading of the Every Child a Reader pilot projects. [233214]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The latest evaluation commissioned by the Institute of Education show Every Child a Reader to have a very positive effect on raising the attainment levels of children struggling to read at KS1. In schools funded through the programme, children receiving reading recovery lessons made on average a gain of 21 months in reading age in four to five months of teaching—well over four times the normal rate of progress. Children receiving reading recovery are routinely followed up after they have finished their programmes, to make sure that their progress is maintained. After six months children taught through Every Child a Reader had developed a normal rate of learning.

In 2008 Burroughs-Lange published a reading recovery follow up study comparing the literacy progress of young children in London schools. This study followed up the impact on children's literacy in London schools a year or more after intervention had been received. In the 2005-06 school year literacy progress was compared of the lowest achieving children in 42 schools serving disadvantaged urban areas who received reading recovery compared with those in schools which provided a range of other interventions. At the end of the 2005/06 main study—the literacy achievement of children who had received reading recovery (RR) was in line with their chronological age. The comparison group was 14 months behind with an average reading age of five years five months.

In July 2007 the literacy achievement was again compared of those same children remaining in the same 42 schools. At the end of year two the children who had received RR in year one were achieving within or above their chronological age band on all measures and were still around a year ahead of the comparison children in schools where RR was not available. The RR children had an average word reading age of seven years nine months, compared to six years nine months for the comparison children. The gender gap that was noticeable among low attaining comparison children, with boys lagging behind girls, was not evident in RR schools, where there was no gender gap. Writing achievement showed a significant difference between RR and comparison children. At the end of year two, the children who had received RR were able to write twice as many correctly spelled, words as those children who were in the comparison group.

Safer School Partnerships

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made by schools in establishing safer school partnerships with local police. [231364]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Youth Crime Action Plan, published on 15 July, announced that every school that wants one should be able to be part of an SSP, subject to local resources.

We are working with the Home Office and ACPO on a survey of current Safer School Partnership (SSP) provision that will provide an up to date picture in terms of scale, objectives and the outcomes of projects. The results of the survey will help inform and drive the future development of SSP provision.

The survey forms part of a wider strategy to share good practice and encourage local partners to come together which we are taking forward in a series of conferences beginning in November. The conferences will promote the benefits of SSPs and explore more widely issues around safety in schools. The audit and conferences will inform the new guidance for practitioners, which we expect to publish early next year.

Additional funding for SSPs was included in the extra £3 million for the 10 police forces involved in the Tackling Knives Action Programme, announced by the Home Secretary on 21 October.

We are not promoting SSPs in Wales. The Welsh Assembly and Welsh police forces have set up a programme, the All-Wales School Liaison Core Programme that is broadly similar to SSPS.

Schools: Voluntary Work

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent steps the Government has taken to encourage schools to promote volunteering. [232525]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are encouraging all children and young people to volunteer. Through primary school, children learn about being active citizens and from the ages of 11 to 16, pupils take part in 'informed and responsible action' as part of the citizenship curriculum. The duty on schools to promote community cohesion is encouraging schools to strengthen links with their local communities. This is leading to more young people volunteering for community citizenship activities and different forms of individual and collective action. In addition, through the national PE and sport strategy, over 1 million pupils—around 16 per cent.—are now actively involved in sports volunteering and leadership on a regular basis. £23 million has been invested in this area in the last six years.

The Government are committed to helping to motivate and support young people to volunteer and we are working with other agencies and other Government Departments to ensure that this moves forward.

Special Educational Needs

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether consideration of schools' *(a)* exclusion and *(b)* anti-bullying policies will form part of Ofsted's reviewing special educational needs from 2009. [231359]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are considering the detailed remit of the 2009/10 Ofsted review of special educational needs (SEN), including whether schools' policies on exclusion and bullying of children with SEN should fall within scope.

Teachers: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average payment per person to members of the teachers' pension scheme was in 2008. [232716]

Jim Knight: The latest year for which this information is available is 2006-07. The average annual pension per person for that year was approximately £9,000.

Teachers: Training

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of newly qualified teachers acquired qualified teacher status through training on the Graduate Teacher Programme in each year since 2005. [233086]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The following table shows the number and percentage of trainees who successfully completed the Graduate Teacher programme in each year from 2004/05 to 2006/07, the most recent year for which data are available.

Teachers gaining qualified teacher status: Qualification via the Graduate Teacher Programme, 2004/05 to 2006/07, England

	Trainees successfully completing the Graduate Teacher programme	
	Number	*Percentage*
2004/05	5,090	15.1
2005/06	4,600	13.9
2006/07	5,140	15.1

Notes:
1. Percentages are based on the total number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status in that year. This includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and Open University as well as employment based routes and cases where QTS is granted on assessment-based training.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

Languages: GCE A-level

Mr. Dismore: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what advice is provided to prospective A-level modern language students on the acceptability of each modern language A-level qualification to universities as part of their admission requirements; and if he will make a statement. [232985]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

I have had no discussions with universities on the subject requirements for student admissions. These are for each university to decide on the basis of the academic and professional needs of each course. If universities do have specific entry requirements for particular courses, these may be shown on their websites, and are generally replicated on the course information of the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service website. The Department does not hold that information.

We have made it clear however that admissions policies should be open and transparent. I am aware that the Equality Challenge Unit and Supporting Professionalism in Admissions (SPA) have recently written to higher education institutions about the need to ensure that admissions procedures do not breach equality legislation in terms of the treatment of students with native language qualifications.

Schools, in partnership with local Connexions services, are expected to provide young people with high quality and impartial, personalised information, advice and guidance about learning and careers that meets the needs of the individual. The Department for Children, Schools and Families is currently working with the Training and Development Agency for Schools to pilot approaches that will help all teachers to provide high quality advice on progression opportunities from their own subjects.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on proposals from the French Presidency of the EU (1) that more than 65 per cent. of greenhouse gas emissions reductions under the non-traded sector should be delivered through the Clean Development Mechanism or Joint Implementation; [227865]

(2) that more than 45 per cent. of emissions reductions under the Emissions Trading Scheme should be delivered through the Clean Development Mechanism or Joint Implementation. [227866]

Joan Ruddock: The Government believe that there should be more access to project credits in the EU emissions trading scheme than is provided for in the Commission proposal for revising the scheme. This would allow for harmonisation of access among installations in the EU. The UK Government would like to see project credit access in both the EU emissions trading scheme and greenhouse gas (GHG) effort-share limited to 50 per cent. of absolute effort (in the context of the overarching principle that 50 per cent. of absolute emissions reductions from 2005 must take place within the EU).

We are still considering what this "50 per cent. of absolute effort" principle means in quantitative terms across the EU ETS and the non-traded sector. This is difficult because the EU ETS runs across the time period 2008 to 2020, while the non-traded sector runs across the period 2013 to 2020. We need to be sure that we get the balance right to demonstrate that Europe is serious about the transition to a low carbon economy through emission reductions within its borders. We should not rely disproportionately on third countries in order to meet Europe's own targets.

Carbon Emissions: Housing

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department makes available under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Targets Scheme to park home residents. [229912]

Joan Ruddock: There is limited assistance that can be given to park home residents under the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) due to the nature of their homes, which make them harder to insulate than many others. Although the Government set the overall CERT target, it is open to energy suppliers how they meet their targets. Suppliers promote the most cost effective energy saving measures including cavity wall and loft insulation. Measures such as external or internal wall insulation for park homes are not currently as cost effective as other energy saving measures, so are less attractive to energy suppliers. Park homes residents are eligible for assistance for low energy lamps and efficient appliances.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what domestic carbon dioxide emissions on the environmental accounts basis have been in each year since 1990. [231253]

Joan Ruddock: Office for National Statistics (ONS) Environmental Accounts produce estimates of air emissions, including carbon dioxide, annually.

The ONS Environmental Accounts measure greenhouse gas emissions on a UK residents basis, in order to be comparable with National Accounts economic data. Therefore, they include emissions generated by UK households and companies in the UK and emissions from UK households' and companies' transport and travel activities abroad. They exclude emissions generated by non-residents' transport and travel in the UK.

As such, these data are on a different basis from estimates published by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs under the UK's Kyoto Protocol obligations. The Kyoto Protocol basis covers emissions from UK territory only and excludes emissions from international aviation and shipping.

The most recent publication was on 3 June 2008 and data for the period 1990 to 2006 are available on the National Statistics website.

These data show that total carbon dioxide emissions for the United Kingdom on a National Accounts residents basis are as follows:

	Total CO_2 emissions (thousand tonnes, CO_2 equivalent)
1990	627,886
1991	635,514
1992	620,284
1993	608,030
1994	601,252
1995	593,596
1996	620,542
1997	600,321
1998	606,170
1999	597,374
2000	608,834
2001	624,295
2002	609,278
2003	624,439
2004	631,743
2005	634,450
2006	626,295

Climate Change

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government plans to take to support scientific projects which seek to curb climate change, with particular reference to projects *(a)* in their infancy and *(b)* which are finding difficulties in securing capital funding. [229846]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and its predecessors have a long established record of supporting UK science to understand current and future climate change and its impacts. Currently DECC is directly responsible for about £31 million of climate change research annually, including supporting the world-leading research at the Met Office Hadley Centre (MOHC) to the tune of about £15 million each year, through their Integrated Climate Programme (ICP). The ICP is also jointly funded by the Ministry of Defence.

A primary output of the MOHC research and modelling is to provide advice with regard to future climate change and the risks of climate change. It provides evidence to DECC which is used to develop policy on curbing climate change.

DECC is working with DEFRA, other Government Departments and research councils to frame and implement new work, aimed at more fully integrating robust natural science research with that needed to deliver evidence to enable societies to adapt better to unavoidable climate change.

The challenge of moving towards a lower carbon economy requires us to develop a portfolio of low carbon energy technologies such as carbon abatement technologies, hydrogen and fuel cells, nuclear power and renewables. Public sector funding bodies all recognise low carbon energy technologies as a priority and are working closely to ensure that funding is co-ordinated—and that funding effectively supports the portfolio of technologies that will deliver CO_2 reductions.

Capital grant and other funding for low carbon and renewable energy technologies is provided under the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). Under the UK element of the ETF, DECC supports the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment of innovative low carbon and energy efficiency demonstration technologies, and aims to accelerate their commercialisation in the UK. The scheme aims to address market failures at the demonstration and pre-commercial deployment stage, where developers of new and innovative energy technologies can have difficulty in securing capital funding. The fund operates by means of technology-specific schemes, with projects selected on a competitive basis.

Over the next three years, Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) funded Research Councils will be investing over £300 million in energy research and over £360 million in research that will address living with environmental change.

The Natural Environment Research Council currently spends £66 million per annum that is directly attributable to fundamental aspects of climate change.

Climate Change: Aviation

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evidence his Department has *(a)* received and *(b)* evaluated on the science of non-carbon dioxide climate change impacts from aviation, including radiactive forcing and the effect of emissions at altitude; and whether his Department is funding any research on total climate impacts of aviation due to radiactive forcing. [231299]

Joan Ruddock: The Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) has commissioned a report looking at the effect of aviation on radiative forcing of climate through not only its emission of CO_2, but also NOx and the effects of contrails and aircraft-induced cirrus.

Although much remains to be done on improving modelling at global and regional scales, the report (which is not yet finalised) demonstrates more clearly the effect of NOx emissions from aviation on ozone and methane emissions and the impact of aircraft altitude on temperature.

Mitigation of aviation emissions, including the complex technological and atmospheric tradeoffs, is also discussed in the report. A core issue is how to balance the long-term effect of CO_2 against shorter-term effects such as those from ozone, contrails and aircraft-induced cirrus that have equal or greater radiative magnitude than CO_2. Particular focus has been given to the potential for reducing contrail radiative forcing by modifying flight altitude.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's organisational chart. [228259]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new Department will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on but the Department of Energy and Climate Change will contain roughly 900 posts, approximately 500 from BERR and 400 from DEFRA. Once the detail has been agreed, the information on the organisation of posts will be made a matter of public record.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed by his Department *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis, broken down by civil service grade. [228260]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but the Department of Energy and Climate Change will comprise roughly 900 posts, approximately 500 from BERR and 400 from DEFRA. Once the detail has been agreed, the information on numbers of posts will be a matter of public record.

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff in his Department were *(a)* transferred from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, *(b)* transferred from the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *(c)* transferred from other Government departments and *(d)* not transferred from another Government department. [228301]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but the Department of Energy and Climate Change will comprise roughly 900 posts, approximately 500 from BERR and 400 from DEFRA. Once the detail has been agreed, the information on numbers of posts will be a matter of public record.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual budget is of his Department, broken down by expenditure type. [228261]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The final budget will be agreed once negotiations on the Machinery of Government changes with BERR, DEFRA and HMT are complete.

Departmental Standards

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what performance targets his Department has inherited from other Government Departments; and what progress had been made towards meeting them. [228602]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The Machinery of Government document of 3 October 2008 details the targets that DECC has inherited as follows:

Lead the global effort to avoid dangerous climate change (PSA);

Climate change tackled internationally and through domestic action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions (DSO);

Ensure the reliable supply and efficient use of clean, safe and competitively priced energy (DSO);

Manage energy liabilities effectively and responsibly (DSO);

DECC will contribute to BERR's DSO to deliver free and fair markets, with greater competition, for businesses, consumers and employees;

Progress against these will have been reported on in BERR and DEFRA publications to date and DECC will be reporting on the targets as part of its annual report.

Energy: Housing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many green homes service regional advice centres are in operation; when each centre was opened; and how many enquiries each centre dealt with. [226974]

Joan Ruddock: Following the Green Homes announcement by the Prime Minister in November 2007, the Energy Saving Trust accelerated the roll out of its network of advice centres, which form the key delivery channel for all the Green Homes services.

There are 21 centres now operational, including five covering Scotland funded by the Scottish Government. The centres provide independent, impartial advice on energy efficiency, microgeneration and renewable energy, low carbon transport, water efficiency and waste reduction and a range of services that will help consumers to take action.

The details of the 16 regional advice centres that are funded by my Department are listed as follows.

Date opened	*EST advice centre*	*Number of inquiries since opening*
2007		
5 November	London	86,090
16 November	Wales	67,600
2008		
1 April	Northern Ireland	30,161
1 May	North West 1 Merseyside and Cheshire	16,917
1 May	North West 2 Greater Manchester	14,750
1 September	West Midlands	2,386
1 September	East Midlands	1,434

Date opened	*EST advice centre*	*Number of inquiries since opening*
8 September	North West 3 Cumbria and Lancashire	5,177
15 September	Yorkshire and Humber 1 N. Yorkshire	3,065
15 September	Yorkshire and Humber 2 S and W Yorkshire	4,010
29 September	South West	[1]—
1 October	Eastern 1 Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridge	[1]—
1 October	Eastern 2 Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire	[1]—
6 October	South East 1 Thames Valley Solent	[1]—
6 October	South East 2 Kent Surrey and Sussex	[1]—
1 April	North East	39,155

[1] Information unavailable until November 2008.

Energy: Imports

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* oil and *(b)* gas was imported in 2007, broken down by country of origin; and what percentage of the total was imported from each country. [225604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The following tables show imports into the UK of crude oil, petroleum products and natural gas by country of origin during 2007.

In 2007 Norway accounted for two-thirds of the UK's crude oil and natural gas imports. Imports of petroleum products are more diverse in origin, with most (15 per cent.) coming from the Netherlands.

UK imports of crude oil in 2007 by country

Million tonnes

Country of origin	*Total crude oil imports*	*Percentage of total crude oil imports*
Algeria	2.2	4.4
Nigeria	1.0	2.1
Norway	32.5	65.2
Russia	6.1	12.1
Venezuela	1.5	2.9
Other Africa	1.7	3.5
Other Europe	1.6	3.3
Other Latin America	0.7	1.4
Other near and middle east	1.4	2.9
Other	1.1	2.2
Total	49.9	100

Source:
Department of Energy and Climate Change

UK imports of petroleum products in 2007 by country

Million tonnes

Country of origin	*Total petroleum product imports*	*Percentage of total petroleum product imports*
Belgium	2.3	9.8
Denmark	0.3	1.3
Estonia	0.9	3.7
France	2.6	11.0
Germany	1.1	4.7
Kuwait	2.5	10.3
Latvia	1.3	5.4
Netherlands	3.5	14.7
Norway	0.5	1.9
Russia	1.3	5.5
Saudi Arabia	1.6	6.6
Sweden	1.8	7.5
Venezuela	0.5	2.1
Other Europe	1.1	4.5
Other near and middle east	0.9	3.9
Other	1.7	7.1
Total	23.8	100

Source:
Department of Energy and Climate Change

UK imports of natural gas in 2007 by country

Million

Country of origin	*Total gas imports*	*Percentage of total gas imports*
Belgium	1.9	6.2
Netherlands	7.1	23.1
Norway	20.3	66.2
LNG	1.4	4.5
Of which:		
Algeria	0.6	2.0
Egypt	0.2	0.5
Qatar	0.2	0.8
Trinidad and Tobago	0.4	1.2
Total	30.7	100

Source:
Department of Energy and Climate Change

Energy: Meters

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of people paying energy bills through prepayment meters and *(b)* the average annual cost of paying energy bills by (i) prepayment meters and (ii) direct debit. [225635]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested is published quarterly in Quarterly Energy Prices, available online at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/publications/prices/index.html

The latest edition from September 2008 shows that as at the end of June 2008, there were approximately 3.9 million electricity prepayment customers and 2.4 million gas prepayment customers.

This publication also holds provisional 2008 yearly bills, based on standard consumption figures of 3,300 kWh for electricity and 18,000 kWh for gas. The following is taken from tables 2.2.1 and 2.3.1.

2008 Provisional bills

£

	Prepayment	*Direct debit*
Gas	630	528
Electricity	419	374

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many homes were awaiting prepayment meter recalibration in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Yorkshire and the Humber and *(c)* the United Kingdom in each of the last 10 years. [228286]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) collects and publishes data about the recalibration of token prepayment meters. These meters have to be individually recalibrated after each price change. From December 2006 to June 2007, the last period for which data have been published, the number of token prepayment meters in Great Britain awaiting recalibration for those suppliers who apply the price change in advance of recalibration is:

	Number
December 2006	409,000
January 2007	256,000
February 2007	196,481
March 2007	153,638
April 2007	128,097
May 2007	107,790
June 2007	[1]119,684

[1] Inaccurate data was reported for May 2007 and therefore correct figure as at end of June 2007 is higher than that reported in May.

Suppliers are working on accelerated replacement programmes to replace token prepayment meters with newer technology key meters which can be recalibrated remotely.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people and *(b)* households in fuel poverty, broken down by local authority area in each year since 2000; and what Government target on the reduction of fuel poverty applied in each such year. [227591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Since 2000, fuel poverty at a sub-regional level is only available for 2003, for England. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

The following table shows estimated fuel poverty levels for each local authority in England in 2003 but is provided with a warning; that it may not reflect current levels at all:

Local authority	*Level*
North West	
Allerdale	2,700
Barrow in Furness	2,200
Blackburn with Darwen	3,900
Blackpool	4,400
Bolton	7,100
Burnley	2,700
Bury	4,700
Carlisle	2,900
Chester	3,100
Chorley	2,600
Congleton	2,200
Copeland	2,100
Crewe and Nantwich	3,000
Eden	1,500
Ellesmere Port and Neston	2,100
Fylde	2,000
Halton	3,200
Hyndburn	2,400
Knowsley	4,200
Lancaster	3,700
Liverpool	14,200
Macclesfield	3,700
Manchester	11,900
Oldham	5,700
Pendle	2,600
Preston	3,600
Ribble Valley	1,400
Rochdale	5,500
Rossendale	1,800
Salford	6,400
Sefton	8,000
South Lakeland	2,800
South Ribble	2,500
St Helens	4,900
Stockport	7,300
Tameside	5,800
Trafford	5,500
Vale Royal	3,100
Warrington	4,800
West Lancashire	2,800
Wigan	8,300
Wirral	9,200
Wyre	2,900
North West total	187,400
South East	
Adur	1,400
Arun	3,500
Ashford	2,500
Aylesbury Vale	3,600
Basingstoke and Deane	3,400
Bracknell Forest	2,200
Brighton and Hove	6,500
Canterbury	3,300
Cherwell	2,900
Chichester	2,600
Chiltern	1,900
Crawley	2,100
Dartford	2,000
Dover	2,900
East Hampshire	2,400
Eastbourne	2,400
Eastleigh	2,500
Elmbridge	2,700
Epsom and Ewell	1,400
Fareham	2,400
Gosport	1,900
Gravesham	2,300
Guildford	2,800
Hart	1,800
Hastings	2,500

Local authority	*Level*
Havant	2,800
Horsham	2,700
Isle of Wight	3,800
Lewes	2,200
Maidstone	3,300
Medway	6,200
Mid Sussex	2,800
Milton Keynes	4,700
Mole Valley	1,800
New Forest	4,000
Oxford	2,900
Portsmouth	5,200
Reading	3,200
Reigate and Banstead	2,700
Rother	2,300
Runnymede	1,700
Rushmoor	1,900
Sevenoaks	2,500
Shepway	2,600
Slough	2,300
South Bucks	1,300
South Oxfordshire	2,900
Southampton	5,600
Spelthorne	2,000
Surrey Heath	1,700
Swale	3,100
Tandridge	1,700
Test Valley	2,500
Thanet	3,700
Tonbridge and Mailing	2,400
Tunbridge Wells	2,500
Vale of White Horse	2,500
Waverley	2,600
Wealden	3,300
West Berkshire	3,100
West Oxfordshire	2,100
Winchester	2,400
Windsor and Maidenhead	2,900
Woking	1,900
Wokingham	3,000
Worthing	2,500
Wycombe	3,400
South East total	186,500
South West	
Bath and North East Somerset	4,100
Bournemouth	4,400
Bristol City of	10,200
Caradon	2,200
Carrick	2,500
Cheltenham	2,800
Christchurch	1,100
Cotswold	2,100
East Devon	3,300
East Dorset	1,900
Exeter	2,900
Forest of Dean	2,200
Gloucester	2,900
Isles of Stilly	100
Kennet	1,800
Kerrier	2,700
Mendip	2,700
Mid Devon	1,900
North Cornwall	2,300
North Devon	2,400
North Dorset	1,500
North Somerset	4,700
North Wiltshire	3,000
Penwith	1,900
Plymouth	6,700
Poole	3,300
Purbeck	1,100
Restormel	2,700
Salisbury	2,800
Sedgemoor	2,900
South Gloucestershire	5,700
South Hams	2,100
South Somerset	4,000
Stroud	2,700
Swindon	4,400
Taunton Deane	2,700
Teignbridge	3,200
Tewkesbury	1,900
Torbay	3,700
Torridge	1,700
West Devon	1,400
West Dorset	2,500
West Somerset	1,000
West Wiltshire	3,000
Weymouth and Portland	1,700
South West total	128,900
West Midlands	
Birmingham	26,500
Bridgnorth	1,400
Bromsgrove	2,100
Cannock Chase	2,300
Coventry	7,800
Dudley	7,900
East Staffordshire	2,900
Herefordshire County of	5,000
Lichfield	2,300
Malvern Hills	1,900
Newcastle under Lyme	3,300
North Shropshire	1,600
North Warwickshire	1,600
Nuneaton and Bedworth	3,100
Oswestry	1,100
Redditch	1,900
Rugby	2,200
Sandwell	7,900
Shrewsbury and Atcham	2,500
Solihull	4,600
South Shropshire	1,200
South Staffordshire	2,500
Stafford	3,100
Staffordshire Moorlands	2,500
Stoke on Trent	7,100
Stratford on Avon	2,800
Tamworth	1,800
Telford and Wrekin	4,100
Walsall	6,700

Local authority	*Level*
Warwick	3,000
Wolverhampton	6,600
Worcester	2,400
Wychavon	2,800
Wyre Forest	2,500
West Midlands total	138,900
Yorks and Humber	
Barnsley	6,300
Bradford	12,400
Calderdale	5,400
Craven	1,500
Doncaster	8,000
East Riding of Yorkshire	8,500
Hambleton	2,200
Harrogate	3,800
Kingston upon Hull City of	7,300
Kirklees	10,700
Leeds	19,300
North East Lincolnshire	4,600
North Lincolnshire	4,300
Richmondshire	1,200
Rotherham	6,700
Ryedale	1,500
Scarborough	3,100
Selby	1,900
Sheffield	13,900
Wakefield	8,700
York	4,600
Yorks and Humber total	136,000
East Midlands	
Amber Valley	3,300
Ashfield	3,200
Bassetlaw	3,000
Blaby	2,100
Bolsover	2,100
Boston	1,600
Broxtowe	2,900
Charnwood	3,800
Chesterfield	2,800
Corby	1,400
Daventry	1,700
Derby	6,100
Derbyshire Dales	1,900
East Lindsey	3,900
East Northamptonshire	2,000
Erewash	3,000
Gedling	2,900
Harborough	1,800
High Peak	2,300
Hinckley and Bosworth	2,500
Kettering	2,200
Leicester	7,500
Lincoln	2,400
Mansfield	2,800
Melton	1,300
Newark and Sherwood	2,900
North East Derbyshire	2,500
North Kesteven	2,500
North West Leicestershire	2,300
Northampton	5,000
Nottingham	7,800
Oadby and Wigston	1,300
Rushcliffe	2,600
Rutland	900
South Derbyshire	2,100
South Holland	2,200
South Kesteven	3,300
South Northamptonshire	1,900
Wellingborough	1,900
West Lindsey	2,300
East Midlands total	111,900
East England	
Babergh	2,200
Basildon	4,000
Bedford	3,600
Braintree	3,200
Breckland	3,300
Brentwood	1,600
Broadland	3,000
Broxbourne	1,800
Cambridge	2,400
Castle Point	2,000
Chelmsford	3,600
Colchester	3,800
Dacorum	3,000
East Cambridgeshire	1,800
East Hertfordshire	2,800
Epping Forest	2,700
Fenland	2,300
Forest Heath	1,500
Great Yarmouth	2,700
Harlow	1,800
Hertsmere	1,900
Huntingdonshire	3,700
Ipswich	3,300
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	3,900
Luton	4,400
Maldon	1,400
Mid Bedfordshire	2,800
Mid Suffolk	2,300
North Hertfordshire	2,700
North Norfolk	2,900
Norwich	3,500
Peterborough	4,100
Rochford	1,800
South Bedfordshire	2,500
South Cambridgeshire	2,900
South Norfolk	2,900
Southend on Sea	4,400
St. Albans	2,700
St. Edmundsbury	2,500
Stevenage	1,900
Suffolk Coastal	3,100
Tendring	3,900
Three Rivers	1,700
Thurrock	3,400
Uttlesford	1,600
Watford	1,600
Waveney	3,300

Local authority	*Level*
Welwyn Hatfield	2,100
East England total	131,900
London	
Barking and Dagenham	3,900
Barnet	6,700
Bexley	5,000
Brent	5,300
Bromley	6,700
Camden	4,800
City of London	200
Croydon	7,700
Ealing	6,100
Enfield	6,000
Greenwich	5,300
Hackney	4,600
Hammersmith and Fulham	3,800
Haringey	5,200
Harrow	4,000
Havering	5,000
Hillingdon	4,800
Hounslow	4,300
Islington	4,200
Kensington and Chelsea	4,100
Kingston upon Thames	3,200
Lambeth	6,100
Lewisham	5,900
Merton	4,200
Newham	5,800
Redbridge	5,200
Richmond upon Thames	4,100
Southwark	5,400
Sutton	3,900
Tower Hamlets	3,800
Waltham Forest	5,300
Wandsworth	5,900
Westminster	5,600
London total	162,200
North East	
Alnwick	900
Berwick upon Tweed	800
Blyth Valley	2,200
Castle Morpeth	1,200
Chester le Street	1,500
Darlington	2,800
Derwentside	2,500
Durham	2,200
Easington	2,700
Gateshead	5,600
Hartlepool	2,600
Middlesbrough	3,800
Newcastle upon Tyne	7,300
North Tyneside	5,400
Redcar and Cleveland	3,800
Sedgefield	2,500
South Tyneside	4,300
Stockton on Tees	4,700
Sunderland	7,700
Teesdale	800
Tynedale	1,600
Wansbeck	1,800
Wear Valley	1,900
North East total	70,400

The Government's long-term objective, as prefigured by s.1 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000 is that, as far as reasonably practicable, by 22 November 2016, persons in England should not live in fuel poverty. The interim objective of the fuel poverty strategy in England is that, so far as reasonably practicable, the Government would seek an end to fuel poverty for vulnerable households by 2010. The Government set no annual targets in respect of the 2016 and 2010 targets.

Fuels: Hydrogen

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to encourage the use of hydrogen fuel cell technologies by *(a)* the private sector and *(b)* the public sector. [231424]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are keen to promote low carbon options for future technological development with respect to energy. This includes hydrogen technologies. The priority at present is to encourage demonstrations of the hydrogen fuel cell technology in realistic working environments so that potential users can gain confidence in the technology and developers can find out what improvements are needed to enable full commercialisation to take place. Hydrogen and fuel cell technology is seen as a potential long-term energy option and offers potentially increased energy security and significant reduced carbon emissions.

The Hydrogen, Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration programme is part of the effort to bring forward the demonstration and deployment of low carbon and energy efficiency technologies

www.hfccat-demo.org

The Environmental Transformation Fund which supports fuel cell demonstration projects has allocated £5 million in support of these programmes.

The Government announced a £100 million investment package on 27 October 2008 at the National Low Carbon Vehicle Event. This is aimed at encouraging the research, development and demonstration of advanced low carbon including electric cars. Hydrogen fuel cell technology is one of a number of potential solutions which can play into this space.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years were required to pay a top-up to the Warm Front grant in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [230419]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of contributions requested of Warm Front customers aged *(a)* under and *(b)* over 60 years of age since contributions were introduced to the scheme.

	Scheme year			
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 (to 30 September)*
(a) Contributions requested of under 60's	4,321	16,481	28,445	14,167
(b) Contributions requested of over 60's	6,402	21,959	38,201	21,356
All contributions requested	10,723	38,440	66,646	35,523
Total households assisted	[1]114,595	253,079	268,900	108,673

[1] Households assisted in this scheme year once client contributions were introduced.

Insulation: Housing

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of homes have *(a)* no loft insulation, *(b)* between 0 and 199mm of loft insulation, *(c)* between 200 and 249mm of loft insulation and *(d)* 250mm or more of loft insulation. [231277]

Joan Ruddock: The following data has been estimated by combining the 2005 English House Condition Survey data with Ofgem's data for the number of loft insulations carried out under the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-08. For Great Britain, the estimated proportions are as follows:

Loft insulation thickness	*Percentage of stock in 2008*
None	3.60
less than 50 mm	2.85
50 mm up to 99 mm	21.76
100 mm up to 149 mm	34.80
150 mm up to 199 mm	11.95
200 mm or more	25.04
Total	100.00

Around 71 per cent. of homes in Great Britain have between 0 mm and 200 mm of insulation. The English House Conditions Survey and its equivalents in Scotland and Wales do not provide data on the number of homes with insulation depths between 200 mm and 250 mm, or on the number with more than 250 mm.

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the financial turnover of the domestic insulation market. [231297]

Joan Ruddock: The insulation sector domestic market size is projected to increase by 32 per cent. by 2012 compared with 2007, reaching £1,109 million in 2012 (at 2007 prices).

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what role the *(a)* Nuclear Decommissioning Authority, *(b)* Office of Nuclear Development, *(c)* Sustainable Development Commission and *(d)* Office of Climate Change will have in achieving his Department's objectives; and if he will make a statement. [229446]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: All these organisations have a part to play in DECC achieving its objectives for energy and climate change. Discussions are continuing and we will provide details as soon as possible.

Nuclear Reactors: Decommissioning

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what responsibility his Department has for the oversight of nuclear decommissioning; and if he will make a statement. [228491]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department of Energy and Climate Change is responsible for nuclear decommissioning policy.

Office of Nuclear Development

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the annual budget of the Office of Nuclear Development is, broken down by expenditure type. [228257]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The annual budget for the OND is £71.6 million. The budget is broken down by expenditure type in the following table.

Expenditure type	*Annual budget (£ million)*
OND Staff and Administration costs	3.4
Global Threat Reduction Programme[1]	36.5
Redfern Inquiry	2.5
Non-proliferation policy:	
Nuclear	15.3
Chemicals	4.1
Nuclear Policy	5.7
Nuclear Consultation Policy	4.1

[1] Covering DECC, FCO and MOD GTRP activities

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff are employed by the Office of Nuclear Development *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis. [228258]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Office for Nuclear Development employs 65 staff on a full time equivalent basis and has a headcount of 67 staff.

Oil

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 34, on the European Council, what assessment he has made of the feasibility of securing a constantly rising supply of oil; what assessment he has made of the implications of such supply and consumption for initiatives to tackle climate change; and if he will make a statement. [229871]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK's oil demand is expected to rise gradually over the next decade, mainly driven by demand for aviation fuel and diesel while petrol consumption is forecast to fall. However, global demand is expected by the International Energy Agency (IEA) to rise more sharply over this period, mainly driven by increasing demand in developing economies.

The Government do not estimate the timing of peak in global oil production. However, it is our assessment that the global oil reserves are sufficient to prevent total global oil production peaking in the foreseeable future—provided that sufficient investment in both upstream and downstream is forthcoming in order for production to keep pace with the growing global oil demand.

In the long-term, however, unchecked growth of oil demand, both in the UK and internationally, is not environmentally or economically sustainable. The Government are therefore working both domestically and internationally to reduce CO_2 emissions from the transport sector which will also help to ease demand for oil in the UK and internationally. This includes policies to reduce the carbon content of transport fuel; improve fuel efficiency of vehicles; enable individuals to make more sustainable travel choices; and explore the use of emissions trading for transport. In particular, the renewable transport fuel obligation, EU standards on vehicle emissions and research into electric and hybrid vehicles are likely to encourage the development and deployment of technologies that provide alternatives to petrol and diesel and/or reduce CO_2 emissions.

The Government hope that the forthcoming meeting of Energy Ministers it will host in December will provide an opportunity for consumer and producer nations to discuss these issues.

Public Bodies

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the *(a)* annual cost to public funds and *(b)* total annual budget is of each of the public bodies (i) for which he has responsibility, (ii) which receive funding from his Department and (iii) which are sponsored by his Department. [228253]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Negotiations are taking place to determine which regulators, inspectorates, Executive agencies and NDPBs should become the responsibility of the Department.

Renewable Energy: Distribution

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of proposals to create a high voltage direct current supergrid covering Europe, the Middle East and North Africa as a means of allowing renewable energy from a variety of sources to be transmitted across the region in a secure and cost-effective fashion; and if he will make a statement. [232374]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The idea of a 'Plan Solaire' involving a supergrid that would cover North Africa and the Middle East as well as Europe is interesting. We will wish to explore how such a scheme might promote the EU's objectives for security of energy supply and meeting renewable energy targets. We are awaiting detailed proposals before making an assessment. The cost of building the high voltage direct current grid that would be a necessary part of such a project, as well as the security of any such installation over such large distances, would be key issues in any assessment.

Renewable Energy: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what assistance and funding was available to support the development of the renewable energy industry in the South West region at the latest date for which figures are available; [230833]

(2) how much funding was provided to support renewable energy technology development in the South West region in each of the last five years. [230834]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Public sector funding for renewable energy technology innovation in the UK is being delivered through the research councils, the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF).

The Department does not hold records of all the expenditure on renewable energy in the South West. However, information is provided as follows on the programmes that DECC is responsible for.

The main funding that has been made available for renewable energy in the South West is through the support provided to Regen SW, which is the sustainable energy agency for South West England.

Support has also been made available for bioheat projects through the South West Bioheat Programme (funded by the Government Office for the South West (GOSW) and the Forestry Commission and delivered by Regen SW). This programme aims to stimulate the bioheat industry through increasing the number of systems on the ground, supporting fuel suppliers, and providing recognised training programmes across the region.

The 'Wave Hub' project off the North Cornwall coast received planning approval on 17 September 2007 and has been offered £4.5 million of support from the Government's Marine Renewables Deployment Fund (MRDF) towards a total cost of £20 million for the project. It will provide a well defined and monitored site with electrical connection to the onshore electricity grid and will greatly simplify and shorten the consents process for wave energy device developers. If it receives the necessary support from industry, it could be commissioned by spring 2010.

Assistance under the Selective Finance for Investment in England (SFIE) programme—now known as the Grant for Business Investment (GBI)—is also available to renewable energy businesses for suitable projects.

The Department does not hold records of all the expenditure on renewable energy in the South West. However, the following table sets out the funding spent on the development of renewable energy in the South West for the years 2002-03 to 2008-09 on the programmes that DECC is responsible for.

£

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
South West Bioheat Programme	—	—	—	—	51,542	298,152	71,862	421,556
South West Bioenergy Capital Grants Scheme	—	—	—	—	—	—	11,434	11,434

								£
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*Total*
Wave Hub	—	—	419,513	964,398	909,016	740,692	213,846	3,247,466
Regen SW	100,000	334,402	199,406	402,843	410,609	455,940	547,786	2,450,986

Source:
Government Office for the South West.

Renewables Obligation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of whether the UK will meet the Renewables Obligation to deliver 15 per cent. of all its energy consumption from renewable energy sources by 2020; and if he will make a statement. [230622]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The renewables obligation is the Government's key mechanism for encouraging renewable electricity generation. It will therefore play a key part in meeting the 2020 target but we will need a range of other measures as the EU 2020 target is for renewable energy not just electricity. The European Commission has proposed for the UK to have a 15 per cent target. of all its energy from renewable sources by 2020. This will be confirmed when the renewable energy directive is agreed. The Government have committed to publishing a UK renewable energy strategy once the renewables directive has been agreed next spring on how to meet the UK's share of the EU 2020 renewables target. The consultation document made clear that the EU 2020 target required a step change in our policies to deliver 15 per cent. of all energy from renewable sources by 2020. The consultation on the draft renewable energy strategy therefore set out a wide range of potential measures including new and expanded financial support mechanisms for electricity, heat, transport and small scale generation as well as the approach on tackling key constraints such as planning, grid and supply chain. The consultation document was placed in the Libraries of both Houses. Final decisions on how the renewables obligation and other policies will be implemented to meet the renewable energy target will be set out in the final UK renewable energy strategy next spring.

Solar Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether solar photovoltaics will form part of the renewable energy strategy to be published in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [228369]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We have recently completed our consultation on the draft renewable energy strategy and will be considering responses to it carefully. Within the overall framework the Government put in place, the market will determine what technologies are deployed. We are certainly taking the potential role of solar photovoltaics into account.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the potential for future UK exports of integrated solar photovoltaics; and if he will make a statement. [228489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has committed over £41 million to support the photovoltaic industry since 2000 through the Major Demonstration PV programme and field trials. The photovoltaic industry currently benefits from the £86 million Low Carbon Buildings programme, along with other small scale technologies. Electricity generated from solar PV is also eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO), which is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation. Generators currently receive one renewable obligation certificate (ROC) for every 1MWh of renewable electricity. Under reforms to the RO, we are proposing that solar PV receive two ROCs per MWh.

In addition, in developing the renewable energy strategy the Government have been looking again at financial support mechanisms for renewable electricity to ensure that these technologies can maximise generation at all scales. We recently announced the Government's view that a feed-in tariff for small-scale generation can play an important role alongside the renewables obligation for large-scale projects. We plan to bring an amendment to the Energy Bill to make this happen.

These measures should help the photovoltaic industry to continue to develop in the UK and to take decisions on international developments.

Solar Power: North Africa

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking in conjunction with EU partners to help promote and facilitate the development of Concentrated Solar Power stations in the desert regions of North Africa; and if he will make a statement. [232375]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK supports article 5(9) of the draft EU Renewable Energy Directive, which allows renewable energy generated by new installations outside the EU, to count towards member state renewable energy targets if it is consumed within the EU. We also support the intention that the directive should incentivise deployment of renewable technologies, outside the EU as well as inside.

Concentrated solar power stations based outside the EU might be an effective way of meeting some of our renewable energy needs, although a number of issues, including the cost of building the high voltage direct current grid that would be a necessary part of such a project, as well as the security of any such installation over such large distances, will need to be discussed and addressed.

Warm Front Scheme

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average waiting time is for *(a)* heating and *(b)* insulation installations under the Warm Front scheme; and how many households were on the waiting list for such installations in each of the last six months. [227382]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Jarrow (Mr. Hepburn) on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1476W.

Contractual timelines for insulation and heating for the Warm Front scheme are less than 40 and 120 days respectively. Average timelines over the first two quarters of this year (1 April-30 September 2008) were ahead of the contractual requirement at 38 and 63 days respectively. All of the households referred to in the answer given to my hon. Friend were on the waiting list for such installations in each of the last six months.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department makes available under the Warm Front Scheme to park home residents. [229913]

Joan Ruddock: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre (Mr. Wallace) on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1223W.

Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the operation of sections *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000; what recent representations he has received on the operation of the Act; if he will place in the Library copies of such representations; and whether he plans (i) to amend and (ii) to repeal this Act. [227590]

Joan Ruddock: Section 1 of the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act provides the Secretary of State with a power to define fuel poverty. This power has not been exercised because since the fuel poverty strategy was published the Government have relied on the following definition:

> "A household is said to be in fuel poverty if it needs to spend more than 10% of its income on fuel to maintain an adequate level of warmth (usually defined as 21 degrees for the main living area, and 18 degrees for other occupied rooms)."

The broad definition of spending on fuel adopted in the measurement of fuel poverty also includes spending on water heating, lights and appliances and cooking.

Section 2 of the Act contains the substance of the Secretary of State's duties to tackle fuel poverty which includes preparing and publishing a strategy, implementing that strategy and keeping the strategy under review.

From the strategy the Government have implemented a package of measures, set target dates and published annual progress reports. The strategy and annual reports help to communicate to stakeholders on progress and the challenges faced. In this sense, section 2 is an effective provision in ensuring the Government's approach to tackling fuel poverty is transparent—as Parliament intended.

Friends of the Earth and Help the Aged brought a claim for judicial review against the Secretary of State alleging a continuing failure to perform his duties in the Warm Homes and Energy Conservation Act 2000. The case was dismissed on 23 October. The Government remain committed to tackling fuel poverty. While recent energy prices have made the challenge more difficult, we keep the position under constant examination and develop our approach as the situation changes.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 5 November 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Members: Allowances

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Leader of the House what the limit on expenditure via the Communications Allowance in 2008-09 is, including transfers from Incidental Expenses Provision and Staffing Allowance to the maximum amount permissible. [232926]

Chris Bryant: The communications allowance is set at a maximum of £10,400 in 2008-09. This figure will be frozen for the next three years in accordance with the decision of the House on 3 July 2008.

The rules allow Members to transfer up to 10 per cent. of their staffing allowance, and up to 100 per cent. of their incidental expenses provision, into the communications allowance and Members may in certain limited circumstances carry forward an unspent balance or ask for an advance from the following year of up to 10 per cent. of the allowance.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland which organisations provided media monitoring services to his Department in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was. [230225]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office recently renegotiated its media monitoring contract; however, the Office incurred the following expenditure on media monitoring:

			£
	PressData[1]	*PA Mediapoint*[2]	*Newslink*[3]
2005-06	18,000	Nil	Nil
2006-07	18,572	Nil	Nil
2007-08	12,150	5,651	2,892

[1] Web-based press cuttings
[2] Web-based news wire
[3] Broadcast transcription

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Rochford and Southend East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 11W, on departmental procurement, what the monetary value of the expenditure undertaken in 2007-08 for goods or supplies was from *(a)* Bell Decorating Group, *(b)* ASM Locksmiths Ltd, *(c)* Celtic Manor Resort Limited, *(d)* Dentons Catering Equipment Limited, *(e)* John Lewis plc and *(f)* the Scottish Storytelling Centre; and what the purpose of the expenditure was in each case. [233389]

Ann McKechin: The information is as follows:

Supplier	*Purpose of expenditure*	*Expenditure (£)*
ASM Locksmiths, London	Lock repair	88.12
Bell Decorating, Edinburgh	Internal decoration of Melville Crescent premises	6,012.48
Celtic Manor Resort, South Wales	Overnight accommodation	435.00
Dentons Catering Equipment, London	Purchase of catering trolley	306.68
John Lewis	Purchase of kettles and television sets	2,111.90
Scottish Story Telling Centre, Edinburgh	Grant towards the production of "Identities: Tales of the United Kingdom". This involved a grant towards a children's competition to celebrate 300 anniversary of the Union	11,900.00

Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre: Children

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland with reference to the announcement by his Department of 23 October 2008 on a pilot of an alternative to detention for children at Dungavel, when he expects the pilot to be operational. [232944]

Ann McKechin: I expect the Glasgow Alternatives to Detention pilot to be operational in early 2009. The exact date for commencement of the pilot will depend on the outcomes of ongoing discussions with our partners.

We are keen to minimise the detention of children where possible, and deal with the return of families in an appropriate and sensitive manner. The procedure will empower the families to make informed decisions on a return home through voluntary departure, and hopefully reduce the need for the enforced removals.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how long the trial for the pilot of an alternative to detention for children at Dungavel will last. [232950]

Ann McKechin: The Glasgow Alternatives to Detention pilot is expected to last 18 months, although this will be kept under review once the pilot is operational.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer to my hon. Friend the Member for Meriden (Mrs. Spelman), of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 547W, on political parties: finance, what the name of the public sector consultant commissioned to provide public sector auditor advice is; and what the cost of this contract is. [232936]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that it has engaged the temporary services of Mr. Peter Norris, a professionally qualified auditor, through a recruitment agency to provide public sector auditor advice two days per week within its party and election finance directorate. This role is paid pro rota at pay level 1 which for London based staff ranges from £59,045-£74,997.

The Electoral Commission further informs me that it has recently contracted with PricewaterhouseCoopers to provide assistance with developing standard requirements and guidance on the completion of statements of accounts. The value of this contract is approximately £26,000.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards achieving the target of increasing bus passenger journeys by 2010 by 10 per cent., as stated in his Department's Transport 10 Year Plan of 2000; and against what benchmark progress towards achieving this target is being measured. [232013]

Paul Clark: The target to increase bus passenger journeys by 10 per cent. by 2010 has now been superseded by one of a set of public service agreements (PSA) published in the cross-Governmental Spending Review 2004.

The new target outlines our aim, by 2010, to increase the use of public transport (bus and light rail) by more than 12 per cent. in England compared with 2000 levels, with growth in every region in the last three years.

With bus and light rail patronage already at 19 per cent. above the baseline, we are already on track to meet this target. London is largely responsible for the achievement.

While we are on course to achieve the national patronage target, the target for growth in patronage in every region remains challenging.

Bypasses

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards achieving the target of creating 100 new bypasses on trunk and local roads by 2010, as stated in his Department's 2000 Transport 10 Year Plan; and which bypass road schemes were *(a)* started and *(b)* completed in each year since 2000. [232011]

Paul Clark: The 10-year plan published in July 2000 set out a broad package of measures for improving transport. Over the 10-year period individual projects of the Highways Agency and local highway authorities would flow from the outcome of multi modal studies and decisions taken through regional transport strategies and local transport plans. Although the 10-year plan gave an indicative figure for bypasses this is not a target that the Government monitor performance against

On *(a)* the following list sets out the bypasses which have been started since 2000. On *(b)* I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Chipping Barnet (Mrs. Villiers) on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 415W.

2000

A27 Polegate Bypass
A43 Silverstone Bypass
A43 Whitfield Turn-Brackley Hatch Improvement
A43 M40-B4031 Dualling
Burntwood Bypass Phases 1, 2 and 3 Staffordshire
A6023 Denaby Main Diversion Doncaster
A428 Crick Bypass Northampton (developer funded)

2001

A6 Great Glen Bypass
A6 Clapham Bypass
A66 Stainburn and Great Clifton Bypass
A500 Basford, Hough, Shavington Bypass
A650 Bingley Relief Road
A41 Aston Clinton Bypass
A151 Weston Bypass, Lincolnshire
C541 Addlethorpe Bypass and Bends Improvement, Lincolnshire
A143 Broome-Ellingham, Norfolk
A131 Great Leighs, Essex
A63 Selby Bypass

2002

A5 Nesscliffe Bypass
A10 Wadesmill to Colliers End Bypass
A6 Rothwell-Desborough Bypass
A6 Rushden and Higham Ferrers Bypass
A6 Alvaston Improvement
Barnsley Coalfields Link Road (aka Shafton Bypass)
A53 Hodnett Bypass Shropshire
A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade bypass (Northern Link), Buckinghamshire
A527 Biddulp Inner Bypass Staffordshire
Wyre Piddle Bypass Worcestershire

2003

A21 Lamberhurst Bypass
St. Clements Way Thurrock (aka West Thurrock Marshes Relief Road)
A350 Semington-Melksham Diversion Wiltshire
Mansfield Ashfield Regeneration Route, Nottinghamshire

2004

A5 Weeford-Fazeley Improvement
A47 Thorney Bypass
A421 Great Barford Bypass
A607 Rearsby Bypass, Leicestershire
A167 Chilton Bypass, Durham
A158 Coastal Access Improvement Phase 1—Partney Bypass, Lincolnshire
A57 Cadishead Way (Brinell Drive to City Boundary), Salford
A505 Baldock Bypass, Herfordshire
Barnstaple Western Bypass, Devon
Cradley Heath Town Relief Road, Sandwell
Sheffield Northern Inner Relief Road Stage 2 (Northern Section)

2005

A428 West Haddon Bypass, Northampton (developer funded)
South Lowestoft Relief Road, Suffolk

A142 Fordham Bypass, Cambridgeshire

A38 Northfield Regeneration Relief Road, Birmingham

Rugely Eastern Bypass Stage 2, Staffordshire

A4146 Stoke Hammond and Linslade Western Bypass, Buckinghamshire

Gloucester South West Bypass

2006

A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement

A590 High and Low Newton Bypass

A419 Blunsdon Bypass

A38 Dobwalls Bypass

A197 Pegswood Bypass, Northumberland

A1198 Papworth Everard Bypass, Cambridgeshire

A612 Gedling Integrated Transport Scheme, Nottinghamshire

A429 Barford Bypass, Warwickshire

A158/C541 Coastal Access Improvement Scheme, Phase 2—Burgh Le Marsh Bypass Lincolnshire

A165 Reighton Bypass, North Yorkshire

Ridgmont Bypass and Woburn Link Road, Bedfordshire

2007

A3 Hindhead Improvement

A69 Haydon Bridge Bypass

Tunstall Northern Bypass, Stoke

Rugby Western Relief Road, Warwickshire

A47 Earl Shilton Bypass, Leicestershire

Bedford Western Bypass, Bedfordshire

Owen Street Level Crossing Relief Road, Sandwell

Selly Oak Relief Road, Birmingham

A595 Parton-Lillyhall Improvement

A58 Blackbrook Diversion, St. Helens, Merseyside

2008

A1073 Spalding to Eye Improvement Scheme, Lincolnshire/Peterborough

B1115 Stowmarket Relief Road, Suffolk

A34 Alderley Edge and Nether Alderley Bypass, Cheshire (advanced works started in September 2008—main works due January 2009)

A628 Cudworth and West Green Bypass, Barnsley

Departmental Staff

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants not in the senior civil service work in each of his Department's bargaining units on a *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent basis; and how many of these are employed on a (i) fixed-term, (ii) casual and (iii) permanent basis, broken down by Civil Service grade and pay band. [231746]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Central Department and its agencies recorded the following total *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent figures across the various pay bands for (iii) permanent and (i) fixed term appointees:

End of September 2008 figures

		Permanent	Fixed term
PB1	FTE	1,896.6	35.7
	Headcount—Staff in Post	2,164	38
PB2	FTE	4,636.1	107.2
	Headcount—Staff in Post	4,998	120
PB3	FTE	4,683.4	42.4
	Headcount—Staff in Post	4,915	50
PB4	FTE	2,135.0	49.6
	Headcount—Staff in Post	2,183	53
PB5	FTE	1,247.6	18.0
	Headcount—Staff in Post	1,275	19
PB6	FTE	925.9	15.2
	Headcount—Staff in Post	937	17
PB7	FTE	279.5	11.5
	Headcount—Staff in Post	298	13
TM1A (Traffic Officers)	FTE	307.9	0.0
	Headcount—Staff in Post	312	0
TM1B (Traffic Officers)	FTE	1,026.0	0.0
	Headcount—Staff in Post	1,031	0
TM2 (Traffic Officers)	FTE	229.0	0.0
	Headcount—Staff in Post	229	0
TM3 (Traffic Officers)	FTE	42.8	0.0
	Headcount—Staff in Post	43	0
Total	FTE	17,410.0	279.7
	Headcount—Staff in Post	18,385	310

Note:
All figures show end of September 2008.

Traffic officers are employed solely by the Highways Agency.

The Government Car and Despatch Agency could provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

The following (ii) casual employees were recorded within the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency. Casual employees are not employed anywhere else within the Department.

End of September 2008 figures

		Casual
PB1	FTE	186.4
	Headcount—Staff in Post	220
PB2	FTE	206.9
	Headcount—Staff in Post	223
Total	FTE	393.3
	Headcount—Staff in Post	443

A breakdown of all data by bargaining unit can has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* contractors and *(b)* consultants work in each of his Department's bargaining units on a *(a)* headcount and *(b)* full-time equivalent basis. [231748]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The central Department and its agencies recorded the following headcount figures for *(a)* contractors and *(b)* consultants:

End of September figures

	Contractors and consultants
DfT Central	262
Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency	58
Highways Agency	641
Maritime and Coastguard Agency	12
Vehicle Certification Agency	43
Vehicle and Operator Services Agency	25
Total	1,041

Unfortunately, *(a)* contractors and *(b)* consultants had to be combined. This information is not available separately.

Contract and consultancy roles are generally recorded as one full-time equivalent position. Therefore the *(b)* full-time equivalent figure is the same as the headcount figure shown above.

The Driving Standards Agency and the Government Car and Despatch Agency could provide the information requested only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether any *(a)* contractor, *(b)* consultant and *(c)* member of staff from an employment agency, working in (i) his Department and (ii) DFT Human Resources was hired by single tender action. [232643]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Both the Department (i) and DFT Human Resources (ii) currently have contractors and consultants hired by single tender action.

Information about single tender actions for employment agency staff could only be obtained at disproportionate cost. However, agency staff are normally sourced through call-off contracts.

Driving: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to alert the *(a)* police and *(b)* other relevant authorities to novice drivers who lose their licence having accumulated six penalty points and do not pass another driving test, but continue to have vehicles registered in their names. [232713]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Where a driver has driving entitlement revoked under the provisions of the New Drivers Act they must surrender their full licence and the revocation is recorded on the drivers' database. The police have full access to the data, at all hours and at the roadside.

The registered keeper of a vehicle is responsible for taxing the vehicle and for ensuring the registration details are kept up to date, but there is no requirement that they hold a driving licence. However, the police have full access to a vehicles' data, including the details of the registered keeper, at all hours and at the roadside.

London Airports: Smoking

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many police officers have *(a)* given a warning to and *(b)* arrested a passenger after a smoke alarm has been set off by a passenger smoking in a toilet at (i) Heathrow, (ii) Gatwick and (iii) Stansted airports in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231639]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* We have been advised by the Home Office that the information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. Offences of illegal smoking in a public place are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Information on warnings given by police for these offences are not reported to the Home Office.

Motor Vehicles

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles are registered with the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency; and how much revenue was generated from the licence fee in the latest period for which figures are available. [232699]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The total number of active registered vehicles as at 30 June 06.2008 is estima[illegible] to be 36.6 million.

Total vehicle excise duty collected for the financial year 2007-08 was £4,980 million (net of refunds).

Motor Vehicles: Licensing

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many drivers were prosecuted for *(a)* driving without insurance and *(b)* driving without a licence in each year since 1997; and what the average fine for each of these offences was in each of those years. [229947]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Available information held by my Department for the offences of 'using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks' and 'driving otherwise than in accordance with a licence', from 1997-2006 (latest available) are contained in the following tables. Data for 2007 should be available at the end of November 2008.

Table A: Proceedings and average fines imposed at magistrates courts for the offence of using a motor vehicle uninsured against third party risks[1], England and Wales, 1997-2006

	Total proceedings	Average fine (£)
1997	397,133	224
1998	390,074	214
1999	387,419	212
2000	391,659	203
2001	388,298	150
2002	410,398	155
2003	447,267	160
2004	441,819	169
2005	392,763	177
2006	353,481	185

[1] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 143 (2).

Notes:

1. As from 1 June 2003, 'driving a motor vehicle while uninsured against third party risks' became a fixed penalty offence.
2. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences is less than complete.
3. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Table B: Proceedings and average fines imposed at magistrates courts for the offence of driving without a licence[1], England and Wales 1997-2006

	Total proceedings	Average fine (£)
1997	217,490	65
1998	225,324	59
1999	236,188	58
2000	254,077	61
2001	259,742	61
2002	277,107	64
2003	305,339	66
2004	311,006	68
2005	272,954	69
2006	230,647	71

[1] Offence under the Road Traffic Act 1988 s. 87 (1) and (2) as amended.

Notes:

1. It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences is less than complete.
2. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Railways

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards increasing rail use by 50 per cent. by 2010 as referred to in his Department's Transport Ten Year Plan of 2000; what the baseline year is against which this target is being measured; and how many passenger kilometres were travelled in each year since 2000. [232007]

Paul Clark: As shown in the following table, rail passenger kilometres have grown by 28 per cent. since 2000-01, the base year for forecasting used in the 10-year plan.

Great Britain 2000-01 to 2007-08

	Passenger kilometres (billions)
2000-01	38.2
2001-02	39.1
2002-03	39.7
2003-04	40.9
2004-05	41.8
2005-06	43.2
2006-07	46.2
2007-08	49.0
Growth between 2000-01 and 2007-08 (percentage)	28

Source:
ORR

Railways: Overcrowding

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department relied upon when the decision was made to redefine to 10 people standing for every 100 seats what constitutes overcrowding on the railways. [229953]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* No decision was made to redefine the Department for Transport's planning criteria for train crowding. It remains unchanged from the earlier Strategic Rail Authority national criteria for crowding which, with the exception of CENTRO services before 2007, has been in place nationally since 2002.

The previous Centra standard was based on traditional compartment-style slam door trains with no designed standing space for passengers. These trains have now been replaced with modern sliding door trains.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what progress has been made towards achieving the target of widening 5 per cent. of the strategic road network by 2010, as stated in the Transport 10 Year Plan of 2000 issued by his Department's predecessor; against what baseline this target is measured; and what percentage of the strategic road network was widened in each year since 2000. [232014]

Paul Clark: The 10-year plan published in July 2000 set out a broad package of measures for improving transport. Over the 10-year period, individual projects in the Highways Agency's programme would flow from the outcome of multi modal studies and decisions taken through regional transport strategies. Although the plan gave an indicative figure for widening the strategic road network, this is not a target that the Government monitors performance against.

The following table provides detail of the schemes widened from 2000 to 2007 (the last full year for which data is available).

Year opened to traffic	Scheme	Total scheme length (kilometres)
2000	A30/A35 Honiton-Exeter (DBFO)	21.0

Year opened to traffic	Scheme	Total scheme length (kilometres)
	M66 Denton-Middleton (Contract 1)	6.0
	M66 Denton-Middleton (Contract 3)	9.0
2001	No widening schemes completed	0
2002	No widening schemes completed	0
2003	A2/M2 Cobham to Junction 4 widening	10.6
	A11 Roudham Heath-Attleborough Improvement	9.9
	A1 Willowburn-Denwick Improvement	4.0
	A46 Newark-Lincoln Improvement	13.0
	A1033 Hedon Road Improvement	6.7
2004	A120 Stansted to Braintree Improvement	23.0
	A2 Bean-Cobham Phase 1 Bean-Pepperhill	4.1
2005	A1(M) Wetherby-Walshford	5.0
	M5 Junctions 17-18a Northbound Climbing Lane (Hallen Hill)	2.1
	M4 Junction 18 Eastbound Diverge	3.0
	M25 J12-15 Widening	11.4
2006	A1(M) Ferrybridge-Hook Moor	17.0
	M60 J5-8 Widening	7.4
	M5 Junctions 19-20 Southbound Climbing Lane (Naish Hill)	3.4
	M5 Junctions 19-20 Northbound Climbing Lane (Tickenham Hill)	3.4
	A249 Iwade-Queenborough Improvement (DBFO)	5.0
2007	A11 Attleborough Bypass	5.2
	A428 Caxton Common to Hardwick Improvement	7.6
	A30 Bodmin Indian Queens Improvement	11.5
	A66 Carkin Moor to Scotch Corner Improvement	6.1
	A66 Greta Bridge to Stephen Bank Improvement	4.7
	M1 J31 to J32 Widening	2.0

Safety Belts

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of car occupants killed in road deaths were in the *(a)* front and *(b)* rear seats (i) wearing and (ii) not wearing seatbelts in the most recent year for which figures are available. [232712]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* In 2007, there were a total of 1,432 car occupant fatalities in reported personal injury road accidents. Of these, 1,256 (88 per cent.) were front seat occupants and 175 (12 per cent.) were rear seat occupants.

Research reported in the published 'Second Review of the Government's Road Safety Strategy' and 'Road Safety Research Report No. 76: Trends in Fatal Car-occupant Accidents', both published on 26 February 2007, estimates that about a third (34 per cent.) of fatally injured car occupants were not wearing their seatbelts. A further 50 per cent. of cases involved a fatality wearing a seatbelt and in 16 per cent. of cases seat belt use was either unknown/unrecorded or non applicable.

85 per cent. of fatalities not wearing a seat belt were driving or travelling in the front passenger seat; fatalities were not wearing seat belts in 58 per cent. of accidents involving a rear seat death.

The Department has just launched its latest seatbelt campaign.

Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229103]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies have seconded no employees to *(a)* trade unions or to the *(b)* Trades Union Congress since 2003.

Transport: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what projections his Department has made of the level of *(a)* private investment in and *(b)* public spending on (i) the railways, (ii) roads and (iii) other forms of transport infrastructure between 2009 and 2014. [232032]

Paul Clark: The long-term funding guideline (LTFG) for transport, announced as part of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review in October 2007, sets out indicative plans for total spending within the Department for Transport's departmental expenditure limit of some £73 billion over the five years from 2009-10 to 2013-14. Of this total, some £19 billion is expected to be spent on railways (including DfT's grant contributions towards the costs of Crossrail). £19 billion is expected to be spent on roads, along with a significant proportion of a further £4 billion identified as capital funding within 'regional funding allocations' (RFAs). The balance of the RFAs, plus the remaining £31 billion of the LTFG is planned to be spent on other transport services and infrastructure.

These figures do not include spending by Transport for London funded through its use of farebox revenues or Prudential Borrowing. The figures also exclude other local authority revenue funded through general grant (paid by CLG) and council tax, and any investment funded through Prudential Borrowing.

The DfT has made no comprehensive projections of levels of private investment in transport infrastructure.

Waterloo Station

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 June 2008 to my hon. Friend the Member for Kingston and Surbiton (Mr. Davey), *Official Report*, column 946W, on Waterloo station, whether the train operating company operating longer trains will be required to pay proportionately greater track access charges to Network Rail. [232714]

Paul Clark *[holding answer 3 November 2008]: Train* operating companies operating longer trains will be required to pay proportionately greater track access charges to Network Rail. This is due to the track access agreement variable charges being calculated by vehicle mileage.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228748]

Mr. Woodward: None of those people recruited to the Northern Ireland Office in 2007-08 has been over 55 years of age.

Until recently, age requirements for appointment to the civil service were that appointees should have reached the age of 16 on or before 1 July prior to the date of appointment, and be less than 65 years of age at the date of appointment. This policy has recently been reviewed and, with effect from 1 September 2008, there is no longer an upper age limit for appointees.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many civil servants working in his Department have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229546]

Mr. Woodward: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information for civil servants other than board members whose details are shown in the Remuneration Report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of the Northern Ireland Office Resource Accounts for financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed electronically using the following link:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/resource_accounts_2007-08.08_resource_accounts.pdf

Northern Ireland Certification Officer

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland whether he has Ministerial responsibility for the Northern Ireland Certification Officer. [233539]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland has no ministerial responsibility in respect of the appointment of the Northern Ireland Certification Officer for Trade Unions and Employers' Associations. This is a devolved matter for the Northern Ireland Department of Employment and Learning.

Parades: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions the Northern Ireland Parades Commission has had with the organisers of the Belfast Pride Parade since 2 August 2008. [232876]

Paul Goggins: This is an operational matter for the Parades Commission. I have asked the Parades Commission Secretary to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House and the *Official Report*.

Public Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what public relations companies are retained by his Department. [232872]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and NDPBs, does not retain any public relations companies.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

House of Commons Staff (Sustainable Travel)

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what steps the Commission takes to encourage House of Commons staff to adopt sustainable travel to work options. [232750]

Nick Harvey: The Commission and the Management Board are committed to increasing environmental sustainability in the services the House Service delivers and in the way they operate. There are a number of initiatives which encourage staff to adopt sustainable travel to work options:

Transport loans—available to permanent and fixed-term employees with more than two months' service. Loans are available for either a season ticket to cover journeys to and from work by public transport and/or a bicycle for travel to and from work. In the last financial year there were 345 season ticket loans and seven bicycle loans.

The House encourages cycling to work by providing a range of facilities across the Estate for bicycle storage and shower facilities for cyclists and others. There are currently 175 bicycle parking spaces on the House of Commons estate. Of these spaces, 36 have been added since 2007; 12 in Norman Shaw North inner courtyard and 24 in Canon Row.

Following discussions with the parliamentary authorities, Westminster city council has provided 46 additional on-street bicycle parking spaces on Millbank and six on Victoria Embankment just north of Portcullis House since 2007.

There will be a significant amount of work in the coming months to develop an environmental strategy for the House, and there is scope to develop a sustainable travel to work policy as part of that wider strategy.

Cycling

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what plans the Commission has to encourage House of Commons staff to purchase bicycles under the Cycle to Work scheme. [232868]

Nick Harvey: The possibility of implementing a cycle to work scheme for staff of the House is currently being investigated. There are a number of issues still to be resolved, but it is hoped to reach a decision in the next two months.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many British casualties there have been in Afghanistan as a result of *(a)* military action and *(b)* other causes since May 2006. [232906]

Mr. Hutton: Since May 2006 a total of 1,840 British casualties have been admitted to a field hospital in Afghanistan. 485 of these casualties were admitted to a field hospital as a result of military action (defined as wounded in action) and a further 1,355 were admitted with disease or non-battle injuries over the same period.

Casualty statistics for UK military and civilian personnel in Afghanistan are routinely updated each fortnight on the MOD website. The tables can be found at:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/FactSheets/OperationsFactsheets/OperationsInAfghanistanBritishCasualties.htm

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the projected net cost is of military operations in Afghanistan in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [232907]

Mr. Hutton: The highly changeable nature of operations means that we are not able to provide accurate forecast costs for operations in Afghanistan until the winter supplementary estimates published later this month and for 2009-10 in the MOD's main estimates due to be published in April 2009.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what guidance is given to members of the armed forces on *(a)* completion of a will prior to initial deployment and *(b)* the review of the will prior to each subsequent deployment; and what provision is made to ensure (i) the personal privacy of the individual making a will and (ii) the availability of an officer qualified to give advice. [232668]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Service personnel are reminded of the importance of making a will or reviewing it prior to each operational deployment. Service personnel may opt to use an MOD form or make private arrangements through a solicitor. Where an individual chooses to use the MOD form, they seal it, once completed and signed by a witness, in an official envelope that lists the service person's basic details. The envelope is then stored securely at the Document Handling Centre until discharge or the submission of a revised will, when the sealed envelope is returned to the individual, or the death of the service person when the will is sent to the Joint Casualty and Compassionate Centre for forwarding to the executor. Although the services do not give advice on making a will, service personnel serving overseas can obtain guidance on what factors should be considered from service legal branches.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average length of time spent in decompression was in *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* elsewhere by troops returning from (i) Iraq and (ii) Afghanistan in the most recent period for which figures are available. [233040]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The average length of time spent in decompression on Cyprus by troops returning from both Iraq and Afghanistan is 24 hours.

We believe this duration strikes the right balance between giving our people the opportunity to wind down at the end of an arduous operational tour whilst also meeting their very understandable desire to be reunited with friends and family as quickly as possible after a lengthy period away from home.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what proportion of regular troops returning from theatre undertook decompression in *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* elsewhere in the most recent period for which figures are available; [233041]

(2) what proportion of reserve forces returning from theatre undertook decompression in *(a)* Cyprus and *(b)* elsewhere in the most recent period for which figures are available. [233042]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Regular and reserve troops from all formed units returning from active service in Iraq and Afghanistan undertake a period of decompression after leaving theatre. This decompression either takes place in Cyprus, if the troops are returning to permanent bases in the UK or Germany; or at the Al-Udeid base in Qatar, if returning to permanent bases in Cyprus.

Armed Forces: Insurance

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department negotiates insurance policy packages for service personnel. [233149]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes. MOD facilitates through commercial providers two commercial insurance schemes; PAX and Service Life insurance (SLI). PAX provides personal accident cover and SLI provide life cover for service personnel. However, these schemes are voluntary and are additional to the benefits which MOD already provides under the Armed Forces Pension and Compensation schemes.

Both PAX and SLI provide war risks cover, and neither increases its premiums for personnel deployed on operations. PAX premiums are the same for all personnel regardless of risks and the scheme has a membership of roughly one-third of the armed forces. The premiums of SLI vary according to gender, age and smoking history and are competitive because of a unique partnering agreement between MOD and the insurers.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many armed forces personnel will have received payments from the armed forces pension fund in 2008 by the end of the year. [231142]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested for 2008 is not yet available as the Resource Accounts for the Armed Forces Pension Scheme (AFPS) for financial year 2007-08 have yet to be finalised. They will be available in the Library of the House by 31 January 2009.

The latest information available is for financial year 2006-07 and is as follows:

Pensions in payment as at 31 March 2007

	Number
Members	266,864
Dependants	68,080
Ghurkhas	26,077
Total	383,021

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average payment per person to members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme was in 2008. [232827]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) resource accounts for financial year 2007-08 have yet to be finalised, but will be available in the Library of the House by 31 January 2009. However, the average annual pension paid to members as at 31 March 2007 was £6,936.46[1].

[1] This figure is based upon pensions paid to former members of the armed forces, their spouses and dependants.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many individuals belong to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new Armed Forces Pension Scheme. [232835]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The armed forces pension scheme (AFPS) resource accounts for financial year 2007-08 have yet to be finalised, but will be available in the Library of the House by 31 January 2009. However, as at 31 March 2007, the number of members of the AFPS 1975 and AFPS 2005 are shown as follows:

Pension scheme	*Active*[1]	*Pensioners*[2]	*Deferred*[3]
AFPS 1975	162,060	382,684	—
AFPS 2005	23,350	337	—
Total	190,410	383,021	329,989

[1] Active members are those currently serving in the armed forces, who have not yet been awarded a pension.

[2] Pensioners are those who have left the service, their spouses and dependants, who are in receipt of a pension.

[3] Deferred are preserved pensions that are payable when an individual reaches the age of 60 (AFPS 1975) or 65 (AFPS 2005). A separate breakdown of personnel who are members of AFPS 1975 and AFPS 2005 cannot currently be provided.

Armed Forces: Postal Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what limits have been placed on the *(a)* size, *(b)* weight and *(c)* number of parcels sent through the Christmas Parcel Appeal for members of the armed forces serving in theatres abroad; on what criteria these limits were established; and if he will make a statement. [233047]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no Christmas parcel appeal. Members of the public are being asked not to send unsolicited mail and packages, which could slow down the mail from friends and families of loved ones deployed away from home at Christmas time.

Under the Christmas freepost or the free mail service, however, small packets and packages (not exceeding the size of a shoe box, or weighing more than 2 kg) may be sent to a named individual. There is no limit to the number of these which may be sent. These conditions were set to optimise weight distribution on RAF aircraft en route to theatre, and on transport used within theatre, where HM forces mail, while given a very high priority, is only carried using spare capacity behind essential supplies of ammunition, medical supplies, food and water.

Armed Forces: Recruitment

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* applicants to and *(b)* recruits into each of HM armed services came from each ethnic origin in 2007; and what targets he has set for recruitment of members of ethnic minority groups in 2008. [232576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information is not held in the format requested. Nevertheless, I am able to provide the following details of the overall number of UK based (i.e. not Commonwealth) ethnic minority (EM) recruits:

Financial year 2007-08

			Intake goal	
	UK EM goals (Percentage)	*Applicants*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Naval Service	3.5	223	85	2.1
Army	4.3	[1]97	413	3.6
RAF	3.6	353	52	1.8

[1] Army officer applicants only: Other ranks details not available due to problems with new management information system.

Departmental UK EM recruiting goals form part of the overall armed forces EM representation goal (8 per cent. by 2013). A new round of UK EM recruiting goals began in financial year 2006-07. From 1 April 2006, and for the next four years the goals were set at 0.5 per cent. above the previous year's achievement for each service, or rolling forward the previous year's target—whichever was higher. The UK EM recruiting goals for FY 2008-09 are therefore:

Naval Service: 3.5 per cent;

Army: 4.3 per cent;

RAF: 3.6 per cent.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many recruits to *(a)* each of the armed forces and *(b)* each regiment were from each socio-economic background in the latest period for which information is available. [232577]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: A person's socio-economic background is not relevant to service in the armed forces. As this information is not required, applicants are not questioned as to their socio-economic background, and no details are kept.

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will take steps to *(a)* identify and *(b)* make special provision for care leavers entering HM Armed Services. [232611]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Where a care leaver under the age of 18 wishes to join the armed forces, the local authority will be required to sign the consent form in lieu of a parent. Where the individual is over the age of 18, they may choose to tell the armed forces but there is no obligation on them to do so.

The services recognise the local authority's statutory responsibility to take reasonable steps to keep in touch, or to re-establish contact if lost, with their care leavers, up to the age of 21. They will forward correspondence from local authorities to the individuals concerned. Care leavers are offered the support of the single service welfare services who may also liaise with the appropriate local authority on their behalf if necessary, and given access, should they request it, to the responsible local authority's services to which they are entitled.

In addition, an identified care leaver being discharged early (i.e. with the less than four years of service) will be classified as a potentially vulnerable service leaver and offered additional assistance with housing, employment and other support as required.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the tender process for the future cut and sew contract will begin. [233004]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Work for the cut and sew contract tendering process is already under way and the advertisement is likely to be placed in the European Journal and the Contracts Bulletin by early 2009.

Armed Forces: Voting

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of *(a)* Army, *(b)* Royal Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force personnel registered to vote in each year since 1997. [233056]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is not available prior to 2005. The following information was obtained from questionnaires sent to random samples of service personnel.

Percentage

	Royal Navy	*Army*	*RAF*
2005	73	52	67
2006	84	51	72
2007	81	62	75

Armoured Fighting Vehicles: Procurement

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to his Answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1248W, on armoured fighting vehicles: procurement, what plans his Department has to order military vehicles other than those of the models detailed in the Answer. [230150]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Department has plans at varying degrees of maturity within its equipment programme to order various military vehicles. The most notable projects are Future Rapid Effects System, Operational Utility Vehicle System and Terrier Armoured Engineer Tractor. Additionally, I refer the hon. Member to the announcement on Protected Mobility vehicles to support current operations made by the Secretary of State for Defence on 29 October 2008.

Army: Self-mutilation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date the study of self-harm at Catterick barracks described in evidence to the Defence Select Committee in its Duty of Care inquiry 2004-05 was completed; what the conclusions and recommendations of the study were; and if he will place a copy in the Library. [232809]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I believe my hon. Friend is referring to a study into self-harm carried out by a clinical psychologist based at Catterick but looking at incidents across the whole Army. A final written report was not completed. However, in September 2007, the clinical psychologist briefed the Army Suicide Prevention Working Group on his findings.

Conventional Forces Europe Treaty

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* status and *(b)* effectiveness of the Conventional Forces Europe Treaty. [232601]

Mr. Hutton *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The United Kingdom, along with NATO allies, continues to honour all our obligations under the treaty on conventional armed forces in Europe (CFE) although Russia suspended its participation on 12 December 2007. With NATO allies, we therefore continue to promote engagement with Russia with a view to reaching an agreed way forward. Russia's actions in Georgia have called into question its commitment to the principles on which stability and security in Europe are based, principles which underpin the CFE regime. Nevertheless, with NATO allies, we remain firmly committed to the CFE treaty and wish to achieve the earliest possible entry into force of the Agreement on Adaptation.

The CFE treaty has enabled the unprecedented provision for information exchanges, on-site inspections (over 4 000 on-site inspections have been conducted) and on-site monitoring of the destruction of above limit equipment. It has reduced military capability across the treaty area (60,000 items of treaty limited equipment have been destroyed or removed from its area of application) and it has reduced the potential for surprise attack in the treaty area. The resulting transparency measures underpin European confidence and security building efforts.

Departmental Information and Communications Technology

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people are employed on the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme on overseas solutions *(a)* in the United Kingdom and *(b)* at each overseas location; and if he will make a statement. [232102]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme does not explicitly differentiate between those staff working on the solutions required to deliver to sites in the UK and overseas.

Given that the DII footprint extends to some 2,000 sites, providing a detailed breakdown of DII staff numbers by site, and/or location, could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* civilians, *(b)* serving members of the armed forces and *(c)* consultants (i) are and (ii) have been employed in the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme; and if he will make a statement. [232103]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The NAO report published 4 July 2008 noted the number of staff within the Department's Senior Responsible Owner (SRO) and Integrated Project Team (IPT) elements of the programme was 570. This comprised some 490 civilian and 80 serving military (rounded). The number of consultants employed in specific roles numbered around 180 (SRO and IPT combined). Staff employed by the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) delivery partner, the Atlas consortium, vary but are typically 2,800. A further 91 staff, civilians and serving military, were employed in the Department's top level budget areas, again as identified in the NAO report.

In order for the Ministry of Defence to calculate the total number of civilians, serving members of the armed forces and consultants that have ever worked on the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme, the Department would need to take into account staff turnover, military rotation, delivery partner engagement and each contract that has been placed with consultancy firms; this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress has been made on the Defence Information Infrastructure (Future) programme in Kathmandu; when he expects the project to be completed; and if he will make a statement. [232108]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Kathmandu presents particular challenges for the Defence Information Infrastructure (DII) programme given its remoteness from the UK mainland. The DII programme has already delivered an interim infrastructure to support the implementation of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) application in Kathmandu and the Department assesses that the DII(F) solution can be completed by the end of 2009.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232739]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence informed the House of contingent liabilities on the following dates:

2004

11 March

2 December

2005

5 April

2006

22 May

2007

26 November

2008

29 January

30 June

7 October

In addition, the Department informed the chairmen of the Public Accounts and House of Commons Defence Committees of a commercially sensitive contingent liability, which is no longer extant, on 28 November 2007.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many citizens' juries his Department has held since 1 July 2007; what the cost was of each; what issues were discussed at each event; and how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* members of the public attended each event. [227477]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence has not arranged any citizens' juries since 1 July 2007.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230958]

Mr. Hutton: Since taking up post on 3 October 2008 I have undertaken mandatory pre-deployment training in preparation for my recent visits to Iraq and Afghanistan.

EU Defence Policy

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his European counterparts on the establishment of a European army; and if he will make a statement. [232598]

Mr. Hutton: I have had no discussions with my European counterparts on the establishment of a European army. The UK's policy remains that there will be no standing European army, navy or air force.

Ex-servicemen: Advisory Services

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what pilot studies have been established in England and Wales to offer assistance to former members of the armed forces on discharge. [232909]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence delivers a range of support to its personnel both as they leave service and as veterans. To develop services further, pilot schemes are sometimes run to evaluate which offer the most appropriate support. Two current pilot schemes are:

Mentoring of Early Service Leavers (ESLs)—those who have served up to four years. It has been in progress at Catterick Garrison since June 2007. It aims to establish whether one-to-one 'light touch' mentoring improves the outcomes for ESLs six months after discharge. Outcomes to be measured include housing, employment and other forms of well-being. This pilot will conclude in 2009 before evaluation and a report published of its findings.

Community-based mental healthcare for veterans. This has been in progress, led by the Health departments and with the support of the ex-service charities, notably Combat Stress since November 2007. The participating sites in England and Wales, based at national health service (NHS) trusts, include Stafford, Camden and Islington, Bishop Auckland, Plymouth and Cardiff. Each site will run a service for veterans with mental health problems for two years. Core principles include delivery of evidence based interventions and development of a service which is accessible and acceptable to veterans. Following evaluation and publication of the findings decisions will be made on wider roll-out of the service.

Ex-servicemen: Criminal Records

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to publish or evaluate research on the number of criminal convictions of former members of the armed forces. [233045]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: We plan to conduct new research on veterans in prison in 2009 and we would hope to be able to evaluate and publish some initial findings in the same year.

Ex-servicemen: Homelessness

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of homeless veterans in the UK; and what steps he is taking to protect vulnerable servicemen and women who have left the armed forces. [230762]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Independent research on the problem was commissioned from the University of York by the Ministry of Defence (MOD), the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and their Third Sector partners in the Ex-Service Action Group on homelessness among veterans. The results of this research were published earlier this year and found that the percentage of veterans among London's homeless population was 6 per cent. in 2007 compared with 22 per cent. in separate research in 1997.

The MOD works closely with the DCLG and other Government Departments, veterans' organisations and other service providers to ensure a co-ordinated and structured approach to this problem as it affects a small minority of our ex-service personnel. We aim to prevent new service leavers becoming homeless and to provide an effective safety net for those veterans who are homeless. Current measures, including new commitments in the July 2008 Service Personnel Command Paper, include:

Helping Service personnel with home ownership, including making available interest-free loans through the MOD's Long Service Advance of Pay scheme, and providing access to shared equity mortgage schemes;

Enhancing housing advice which is available to service personnel and veterans and providing specific assistance including through The Single Persons Accommodation Centre for the Ex-Services (SPACES);

Mike Jackson House providing 25 units of secure short term supported accommodation built in Aldershot for young single ex-service leavers identified at risk of homelessness opened in March 2008 on land gifted by MOD;

Allowing service leavers to occupy 'void' MOD property as an interim measure after leaving;

Extending Key Worker status to enable service leavers to access the scheme 12 months after discharge;

Operating the MOD's Nomination Scheme which facilitates service leavers' access to housing with over 40 housing associations and local authorities in England, Scotland and Wales;

Changing legislation to enable service personnel to establish a 'local connection', so improving their access to social housing;

Issuing statutory guidance advising local authorities not to insist that veterans produce a possession order to demonstrate homelessness;

Publicising legislation that identifies ex-service personnel in certain circumstances as having a 'priority need' for local authority accommodation;

Providing MOD-gifted land as part of a joint venture with DCLG and the Housing Corporation to deliver supported housing projects for veterans;

Supporting initiatives from the voluntary sector, for example through the Ex-Services Action Group on Homelessness in London;

Working with the corporate, voluntary and government sectors to assist homeless ex-service personnel to return to sustained employment through schemes such as Project Compass.

We are working within the Department, across Government and with the Third Sector to deliver these policies and new commitments.

Ex-servicemen: Military Decorations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps the Government is taking to ensure that all those eligible for Veteran's Badges are claiming their entitlement. [232980]

Mr. Kevan Jones: All those leaving the services now receive their HM Armed Forces Veterans Badge in their service leavers' pack. For those not receiving the badge in this way, the details of eligibility and the application process are advertised on the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency website:

www.veterans-uk.info

The badge has also been publicised through Government and ex-service organisation publications and through local and national press articles featuring coverage of badge presentation ceremonies held by Government and external organisations. We are also promoting badge presentation ceremonies as a part of next year's British armed forces and Veterans Day events. The position is kept under review, including considering opportunities to provide further publicity for the scheme.

Between May 2004 and 31 October 2008 over 674,000 HM Armed Forces Veterans Badges have been issued.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Chad: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on incidents involving sexual violence in internally displaced persons' sites and refugee camps in eastern Chad; and when he last raised this matter with the government of Chad. [226080]

Gillian Merron: The recent report of the UN Secretary-General on children and armed conflict in Chad (August 2008) highlights the prevalence of rape and other grave sexual violence in Chad. Both armed groups and community members are reported as perpetrators of such violence. Most reported cases concern attacks and rapes of girls carrying out domestic activities outside Internally Displaced Persons sites. However, stigmatisation and taboo mean that the true extent of the problem is not known, although anecdotal evidence suggests that it is widespread. The report of the UN Secretary-General states that the Chadian Government have not been able or willing to prevent rape and ensure child protection against sexual violence.

We have not raised this issue directly with the Chadian Government. We do, however, support multilateral efforts to address sexual violence in Chad. For example, the UK is a member of the UN Working Group on children and armed conflict. The Working Group is finalising a letter to the Government of Chad, urging them to address impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence.

Commonwealth: Asylum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his policy is on whether Commonwealth states whose subjects frequently request asylum in the UK on grounds of political persecution should be suspended from the Commonwealth. [227833]

Gillian Merron: The Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group (CMAG) deals with member countries that are judged to have violated the Harare Declaration, which lays down the Commonwealth's fundamental political values. CMAG assesses the nature of any infringement and recommends measures for collective Commonwealth action. CMAG can recommend suspension from the Councils of the Commonwealth as one of those measures, though this has not historically occurred as a result of asylum claims relating to a member of the Commonwealth.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions UK diplomats have had with the Governments of Commonwealth countries on claims for asylum on political grounds by people from those countries. [227835]

Gillian Merron: We have regular discussions with Commonwealth countries about a range of issues, including human rights, which can have an impact on asylum claims. Individual asylum cases are dealt with on a case by case basis, and in confidence. We do not discuss them with other Governments. All asylum seekers are treated the same regardless of which country they come from. The key concern in all cases is the risk to the individual on return to their home country.

Guinea: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the level of human rights abuses in the Republic of Guinea. [228216]

Gillian Merron: In September 2008, EU ambassadors in Guinea reported on the human rights situation ahead of an Article 96 of the Cotonou Agreement mission to the country. The Article 96 mission will shortly be reporting its findings to the EU. The Minister for Europe will then write to the European Scrutiny Committee to provide an update on Article 96 discussions including human rights.

The Minister for Europe's last letter to the European Scrutiny Committee contained in the Select Committee on European Scrutiny's 22nd report can be found at:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm200708/cmselect/cmeuleg/16-xx/16xx15.htm

The UK remains particularly concerned about the slow pace of democratisation and the lack of progress by the Guinean government to implement the terms of its agreement with local unions following the general strike of 2007, including establishment of a commission of inquiry into the events surrounding the strike and the deaths of over 100 Guineans during the strike.

Ivory Coast: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his European Union counterparts on the incidence of human rights abuses in Côte d'Ivoire. [228200]

Gillian Merron: Our non-resident ambassador to Côte d'Ivoire, based in Accra, frequently visits the country and discusses human rights, including those concerned with the electoral process, with his EU counterparts. Our ambassador last visited in July and will visit again this month. Our political officer in Abidjan also meets other EU ambassadors once a fortnight. Our officials have visited France, most recently in July, and have discussed human rights issues in Côte d'Ivoire with their French counterparts.

The UK supported the renewal of the mandate of the UN Operation in Côte d'Ivoire in July 2008, including its work towards ensuring the protection of and the respect for human rights. Members of the UN Security Council Working Group on Children and Armed Conflict discussed concerns about the level of sexual violence and violations of children's rights in Côte d'Ivoire in September.

Mauritania: Sanctions

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had discussions with the US Administration on the possible imposition of sanctions on Mauritania. [232192]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have not had any discussions with the US Administration on the possible imposition of sanctions on Mauritania following the 6 August coup. Government officials are in regular contact with the US Administration regarding Mauritania.

On 17 October the US Administration announced that they had imposed travel restrictions to the United States on certain members of the Mauritanian military junta and the Government.

The UK condemned the coup on 6 August and called for the release of the President and the restoration of democratic institutions, and we have been working with EU partners to press for the restoration of democracy in Mauritania. On 20 October the EU met with representatives from the Mauritanian regime to discuss procedures under Article 96 of the Cotonou agreement, which provides for appropriate measures when the 'essential and fundamental elements' of the agreement (such as democracy) have been infringed. Mauritanian proposals did not meet EU requirements, and they were given one month to provide the EU with proposals for the restoration of the constitutional order which satisfy EU requirements. If the Mauritanians fail to do this within a month the EU will close consultations and appropriate measures, including possible targeted sanctions, will be considered. These measures may cover any aspect of the EU-African Caribbean Pacific (ACP) relationship, but there will be an analysis of their impact, and humanitarian and emergency assistance should not be affected.

The UK hopes that the Mauritanians will produce acceptable proposals within the timeframe given in order to move towards the swift restoration of democracy in Mauritania.

The UK is also working with other international partners to try to secure a return to democracy in Mauritania. North Atlantic Treaty Organisation allies suspended military activities to be carried out with Mauritania in September, and are reviewing activities on a case by case basis.

Nigeria: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what progress has been made on the establishment of a trading and advisory support package to improve the security situation in the Niger Delta, referred to in the Prime Minister's press conference with the President of Nigeria on 18 July 2008; and what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical assistance the Government plans to contribute; [232105]

(2) what progress has been made towards establishing a maritime security training centre in the Gulf of Guinea referred to in the Prime Minister's press conference with the President of Nigeria on 18 July 2008; and what *(a)* financial and *(b)* technical assistance the Government plans to contribute. [232109]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I have been asked to reply.

Following my right hon. Friend's July 2008 press conference with the President of Nigeria, the Ministry of Defence hosted a visit from the Nigerian Chief of Defence Staff. The discussions focused on how to improve maritime security in the Niger Delta and on how the UK might provide training support.

The UK will provide training assistance in two areas—improving operational planning processes and in-shore small boat operations. The UK is supporting the creation of a Joint Maritime Security Training Centre. The new Nigerian CDS and Navy Chief appointed in August remain fully committed to the project and have endorsed the use of a military site close to Lagos for the Centre.

We have redirected the main focus of the British Military Advisory and Training Team in Nigeria from broader peacekeeping to support for maritime security and in October a naval officer joined the team to enhance its maritime expertise. The Africa Conflict Prevention Programme has allocated £500,000 for the project this financial year. Architectural plans for the centre have been drawn up and, working in partnership with Nigeria, the focus of this year's activity is on construction of the facility and ensuring that the instructional equipment will be available for training, which should start in earnest in 2009.

This support is part of wider UK efforts to persuade the Nigerian Government to take forward a peace process for the Niger Delta which embraces development and good governance.

Somalia: Piracy

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the African Union and the EU on measures to implement UN Security Council Resolution 1816; what the UK's position is on the implementation of the resolution; and if he will make a statement. [226100]

Gillian Merron: The UK co-sponsored UN Security Council Resolution 1816, which calls for measure to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia. The UK also supported a further UN Security Council Resolution, 1838, which calls upon states to deploy naval vessels and aircraft to take necessary action to suppress acts of piracy.

The Government believe that the full implementation of these resolutions is vital to address increasing incidents of piracy and armed robbery in and around Somali waters. We are working through the EU and North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) on military options to counter piracy, and on the specific naval contribution the UK could make to such efforts. The EU has established a team to co-ordinate maritime activity in the region and is preparing a naval counter piracy mission off the coast of Somalia, for which the UK will be providing the operation commander and the operation headquarters. We are clear that such efforts must be co-ordinated with other maritime forces in the region, including NATO and Combined Taskforce 150. Options for supporting both UN Security Council Resolutions have been raised with African Union partners during the formal EU-African Union contact meetings.

Somalia: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the political situation in Somalia. [228183]

Gillian Merron: The political situation in Somalia was most recently on the agenda for the EU General Affairs and External Relations Council meeting on 15 September 2008. FCO officials regularly discuss the issues with EU officials at a working level.

Sudan: Detainees

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received of the Sudanese Government's decision to detain Ali Kushayb; and if he will make a statement; [230361]

(2) what assessment he has made of the decision to have Ali Kushayb tried by the Sudanese courts instead of the International Criminal Court; and if he will make a statement. [230362]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of reports that Ali Kushayb has been arrested in Sudan and will be tried by the Government of Sudan. We continue to call on the government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the International Criminal Court over the two existing arrest warrants, which includes one for Kushayb. We hope Kushayb's arrest is a step towards this. There can be no impunity for crimes committed in Darfur.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government supports the proposal to widen the mandate of the UN mission in Sudan to include demarcation of the border between North and South Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [212287]

Gillian Merron: The UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS), under its mandate to support implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA), is empowered to support the North and the South on border demarcation. UNMIS provides technical and logistical support to the Technical AD Hoc Border Committee, as requested by the UN Security Council in Resolution 1812 (30 April 2008).

The UK fully supports UNMIS in its efforts to ensure complete implementation of the CPA.

Sudan: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make an assessment of the effects of his Department's travel advice for Sudan on organisations which rely on overseas volunteers to work in that country. [230985]

Gillian Merron: Our travel advice is given on a purely advisory basis. It is designed to help British travellers make their own decisions, on an informed basis, about travelling abroad. We assume no legal responsibility to those who read the travel advice and who may choose to take it into account when making any decisions relating to a particular country.

Uganda: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Ugandan Government on their forcible disarmament programme. [228175]

Gillian Merron: The Ugandan Government launched a disarmament programme in the Karamoja region of northern Uganda in 2001. This programme has continued as part of the Karamoja Integrated Disarmament and Development Plan, launched in 2008. In co-operation with partners in Uganda we have visited the Karamoja region and raised concerns both on the ground, with the Ugandan military and civil society organisations and with the government in Kampala. With partners we are currently seeking a meeting with the Ugandan Government to discuss the security and human rights situation in Karamoja.

Uganda: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Uganda about human rights abuses by the Lord's Resistance Army. [228174]

Gillian Merron: We have repeatedly condemned the actions of the Lord's Resistance Army and the heinous crimes they have committed.

The Government are actively engaged in dialogue with the Government of Uganda on a range of issues relating to northern Uganda, including human rights. We continue to strongly support efforts to restore peace and stability to the region and are working closely with the Government of Uganda and international partners in efforts to implement the Final Peace Agreement and the Peace, Recovery and Development Plan to ensure that the people of northern Uganda benefit from a sustained peace. The British Government have provided £60 million of humanitarian assistance to northern Uganda since 2006.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Uganda. [228177]

Gillian Merron: Although some serious problems persist, including extra-judicial detention and limitations on the freedom of the press and assembly in the approach to the 2006 elections, our overall assessment is that there is continuing progress in Uganda's human rights performance. The Uganda Human Rights Commission's 10th Annual Report showed a 14 per cent. reduction in registered complaints in 2007 against the previous year. The UN's Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights' last report said that there had been a distinct improvement in the human rights and security situation observed in conflict-affected northern and north-eastern Uganda and that they recognised Government efforts towards strengthening the protection and promotion of human rights. The Ibrahim Index of African Governance also records improvement in Uganda's human rights situation. There are active civil society organisations working largely unhindered in the human rights field contributing greatly to investigative and accountability efforts.

Our high commission in Kampala closely follows the human rights situation and regularly discusses human rights issues with the Ugandan Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission and other interested parties. We continue to push for more action on topics such as politically motivated harassment, illegal detention, torture, media freedom and the rights of people in northern Uganda, including in the Karamoja region.

Zimbabwe: Politics and Government

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* the appointment by President Mugabe of members of his Zanu-PF party to key cabinet positions and *(b)* assessments of his constitutional mandate for doing so. [230359]

Gillian Merron: Robert Mugabe's attempt to allocate ministerial portfolios unilaterally runs counter to the spirit and letter of the political agreement signed with the two Movement for Democratic Change parties on 15 September. Zimbabwe deserves a government which reflects the will of the Zimbabwean people as expressed in the 29 March elections, which gave Morgan Tsvangirai and those opposed to Mugabe a clear majority.

Mr. Tom Clarke: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the position of Thabo Mbeki as official mediator between Zanu-PF and the Movement for Democratic Change; and if he will make a statement. [230360]

Gillian Merron: Former President Mbeki deserves thanks for the work he has done so far and for his continuing efforts. Robert Mugabe and Morgan Tsvangirai are primarily responsible for following through on the 15 September agreement. But it is increasingly clear that the current mediation effort is running out of steam. We are encouraging former President Mbeki, South Africa, the Southern African Development Community (SADC) and the African Union to work collectively towards a resolution that reflects the 29 March election outcome without further delay.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Breast Cancer: Males

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of all breast cancer diagnoses in England in each of the last five years were diagnoses to men. [231060]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of all breast cancer diagnoses in England in each of the last five years were diagnoses to men. [231060]

Table 1 gives the percentage of all newly diagnosed cases of breast cancer in England that were in men, for each year from 2001 to 2005 (the latest data available).

Table 1. Percentage of all newly diagnosed cases of malignant neoplasm of breast-which were in males, England, 2001-05[2]

	Percentage
2001	0.6
2002	0.7
2003	0.8
2004	0.7
2005	0.6

[1] Newly diagnosed cases of cancer registered with malignant neoplasm of breast, identified using code C50 of the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision.

[2] Cases which occurred in each calendar year, and had been registered by the time that the file was closed for the latest year reported.

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Charities: Bank Services

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment has been made of the effects of the Icelandic banking crisis on the investment returns of UK charities in the forthcoming financial year. [233363]

Kevin Brennan: As agreed at a meeting between Ministers and charity representatives on Friday 10 October, the Cabinet Office is working with the Association of Chief

Executives of Voluntary Organisations (acevo), the National Council of Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), the Charity Finance Directors Group (CFDG) and the Charities Aid Foundation (CAF) to ascertain the full extent of investment assets affected by the position of the Icelandic Banks.

On 28 October, the Minister for the Third Sector received information from a number of third sector bodies about the effect of the collapse of the Icelandic banks on UK Charities. This includes estimates based on data collected by acevo, the Association of Charitable Foundations, the CDFG, the NCVO, the Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations and Wales Council for Voluntary Action. This information has identified £86.2 million invested by 46 charities in the Icelandic banks. Background information has been collected for 39 of the 46 charities, including the identification of the individual charities which have been most significantly affected.

We continue to work with third sector partners and HM Treasury to assess the effect on UK charities. As part of this process, we are consolidating our information for a sector-wide summit with NCVO on 24 November.

Civil Servants: Manpower

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in the City of York by each Government department and executive agency in each year since 1996-97. [230251]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent civil servants were employed in the City of York by each Government department or executive agency in each year since 1996-97.(230251)

In order to provide the information requested for York, an ad hoc analysis has been required. This analysis is based on the Mandate collection (1997-2006) which provides approximately 90 per cent coverage of Civil Service departments and agencies and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007 only) which provides 100 per cent coverage. For years prior to 2003 coverage is lower. For comparison purposes, employment numbers for the Yorkshire and the Humber region are therefore presented alongside the statistics for York i) as published for the total Civil Service and ii) as available from the Mandate survey. The breakdown by department and agency (as available from Mandate and the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey) is provided in Annex B.

Annex A: Civil Service Employment for Yorkshire and the Humber and York, 1997 to 2007[1]

Permanent employees; Full-time equivalent

Year[2]	*Civil Service Yorkshire and the Humber*[3]	*Civil Service (Mandate only) Yorkshire and the Humber*	*Civil Service York*
1997	32,270	17,350	[4]1,560
1998	32,010	17,450	[4]1,460
1999	31,860	17,320	[4]1,490
2000	33,060	18,120	[4]1,630
2001	33,890	19,370	[4]1,760
2002	35,050	22,490	[4]2,140
2003	35,570	25,190	[4]2,420
2004	39,140	27,270	[4]2,760
2005	38,670	34,200	[4]2,850
2006 (30 September)	36,920	33,160	[4]2,680
2007 (30 September)	36,330	n/a	[5]2,270

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10.
[2] 1 April unless otherwise stated.
[3] 1997-2006 figures are based on Mandate collection and departmental returns to provide 100 per cent. coverage. The 2007 figure is based on the Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.
[4] Mandate only - incomplete coverage of Civil Service departments
[5] Excludes employees of Central Science Laboratory. If Central Science Laboratory employees are included the estimate for York would change to 2,850 (see Annex B).

Sources:
(Unpublished) Mandate collection 1997-2006;
(Unpublished) Annual Civil Service Employment Survey 2007.

Annex B: Civil Service employment in York[1]

Permanent employees, full-time equivalent

Department name	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Attorney General's Departments											
Crown Prosecution Service	140	140	150	150	160	180	170	200	270	300	180
Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	10	10	10
Treasury Solicitor's	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	30	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Ministry of Justice											
Ministry of Justice (excl. agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	—
HM Courts Service	40	40	30	30	30	40	40	40	40	n/a	80
HM Land Registry	90	130	140	150	150	150	150	130	130	120	100
Public Sector Prison Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	80
Ministry of Defence[1]											
Ministry of Defence (including Royal Fleet Auxiliary)	460	300	280	170	180	190	200	220	230	570	630
Army Base Repair Organisation	10	—	—	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
Defence Secondary Care Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

Annex B: Civil Service employment in York[1]

Permanent employees, full-time equivalent

Department name	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
MOD Police (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	70	100	n/a	n/a
RAF Training Group Defence (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	n/a	n/a
Army Training and Recruiting Agency (MOD)	10	10	10	10	10	20	20	20	20	n/a	n/a
Defence Communications and Services Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	—	n/a	n/a
Defence Estates (MOD)	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a	30	n/a	n/a	n/a
Defence Dental Agency (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Army Personnel Centre (MOD)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Defence Vetting Agency (MOD)	n/a	..	..	60	160	160	180	330	310	n/a	n/a
Defence Housing Executive (MOD)	n/a	n/a	20	20	20	20	20	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Health											
Meat Hygiene Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	70
Medical and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	20
Home Office											
Home Office (excl agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	20	—	n/a
HM Revenue and Customs											
HMRC (excl agencies)	180	190	210	220	240	230	210	230	220	190	170
Valuation Office	40	40	30	30	30	30	30	40	40	30	30
Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform											
Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (excluding agencies)	n/a	—	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—
Department for Education & Skills (former)											
Department for Education & Skills (former)	n/a	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Department for Work and Pensions											
DWP Corporate and Shared Services	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10	10	—	60	60	60
Child Support Agency	10	10	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	n/a	n/a	—	—
Job Centre Plus	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	240	210	220
The Rent Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
Pension Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	280	310	20	10	10
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs											
Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (excl. agencies)	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	310	290	310	330	370	380
Animal Health	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	10
Central Science Laboratory	370	400	410	550	560	600	630	620	610	600	580[3]
Pesticides Safety Directorate	200	190	200	200	180	180	170	180	190	180	180
State Veterinary Service	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	—	—	n/a
Department for Transport											
Driving Standards Agency	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Communities and Local Government											
Ordnance Survey	10	10	—	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1 Numbers are rounded to the nearest 10, and numbers less than five are represented by "—".

2 MoD provided consolidated figures for 2006.

3 The Annual Civil Service Employment Survey uses post code to derive location. Central Science Laboratory (CSL) is classified as being in Ryedale based on post code information but is included here for consistency with previously published estimates.

Source:

Mandate collection (1997-2006)

Unpublished Annual Civil Service Employment Survey (2007)

Civil Servants: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the average payment per person to members of the Civil Service Pension Scheme was in 2008. [232828]

Mr. Watson: The mean pension payment made to civil service pensioners in 2006-07 was published in the Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2006-07 [HC 897].

Details of payments made under the Civil Service Pension Scheme in 2008 will be included in the

Cabinet Office Annual Report and Resource Accounts 2007-08 which will be published in due course.

Death: Methadone

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction were recorded in London in each of the last five years. [232444]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many deaths attributed to methadone addiction were recorded in London in each of the last five years. (232444)

The attached table provides the numbers of deaths for which the underlying cause was drug poisoning and methadone was mentioned on the death certificate either alone or together with other substances, in London government office region, from 2003 to 2007 (the latest year available).

The information collected at death registration does not specify whether the deceased was addicted to the substances mentioned as contributing to the death.

Number of deaths attributed to drug poisoning[1] where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate, London government office region, 2003-07[2, 3, 4]

			Deaths
	Methadone mentioned only	*Methadone and other substances*	*Total mentions of methadone*
2003	8	9	17
2004	19	7	26
2005	12	8	20
2006	28	11	39
2007	21	9	30

[1] Cause of death was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10). Deaths were included where the underlying cause was due to drug poisoning (shown in following table) and where methadone was mentioned on the death certificate.

[2] Based on boundaries as of 2008.

[3] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

[4] Where methadone was the only drug mentioned on the death certificate, and where methadone was mentioned with other substances.

ICD-10	*Description*
F11-F16, F18-F19	Mental and behavioural disorders due to drug use (excluding alcohol and tobacco)
X40-X44	Accidental poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X60-X64	Intentional self-poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
X85	Assault by drugs, medicaments and biological substances
Y10-Y14	Poisoning by drugs, medicaments and biological substances, undetermined intent

Departmental Television

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 557W, on departmental television, which channels are subscribed to as part of the Sky mixes selection. [232959]

Mr. Watson: The Sky mixes selection to which my Department subscribes provides for the full range of channels available under the Sky World package and covers the following categories which are described in detail on the company's website; News and Events, Sport, Style and Culture, Variety, Kids, Knowledge, Music and Movies.

Disadvantaged: Fareham

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what super output areas there are in Fareham constituency, ranked by level of deprivation; and what criteria are used to determine deprivation. [231753]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what Super Output Areas there are in Fareham constituency, ranked by level of deprivation; and what criteria are used to determine deprivation. (231753)

The attached table includes a list of all Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) which fall within the parliamentary constituency of Fareham. Entries are ranked in order of deprivation—with the most deprived LSOAs at the top.

The two columns included show the ranking of each Lower Layer Super Output Area in terms of deprivation:

(1) within the parliamentary constituency of Fareham; and,

(2) compared to all LSOAs in England.

Low ranks indicate a high level of deprivation—so the most deprived LSOA in Fareham is Fareham 003C which is ranked 6,420th most deprived LSOA in England (from a total of 32,482 SOAs).

The most commonly used indicator of deprivation, and that applied here, is the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2007 (IMD07). The IMD07 combines a number of indicators, chosen to cover a range of economic, social and housing issues, into a single deprivation score for each small area in England. More details on the construction and uses of the IMD07 can be obtained from the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/comunities/neighbourhoodrenewal/deprivation/deprivation07/

The ONS run Neighbourhood Statistics service—http:/neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk enables users to identify the location of individual SOAs and also to view the different 'domains' of deprivation which make up the IMD.

Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Fareham parliamentary constituency ranked by deprivation (IMD 2007) (PQ621)

			IMD07	
LSOA code	*LSOA name*	*Parl. con. name*	*Fareham rank*	*England rank*
E01022732	Fareham 003C	Fareham	1	6,420
E01022738	Fareham 011D	Fareham	2	10,306
E01022739	Fareham 011E	Fareham	3	10,345
E01022734	Fareham 003E	Fareham	4	15,190
E01022728	Fareham 011A	Fareham	5	15,360
E01022723	Fareham 008C	Fareham	6	15,916
E01022781	Fareham 007A	Fareham	7	18,192
E01022761	Fareham 012B	Fareham	8	19,155
E01022736	Fareham 011C	Fareham	9	19,769

Lower Layer Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in Fareham parliamentary constituency ranked by deprivation (IMD 2007) (PQ621)

			IMD07	
LSOA code	*LSOA name*	*Parl. con. name*	*Fareham rank*	*England rank*
E01022760	Fareham 012A	Fareham	10	21,848
E01022764	Fareham 012D	Fareham	11	22,000
E01022735	Fareham 011B	Fareham	12	22,376
E01022722	Fareham 008B	Fareham	13	22,524
E01022737	Fareham 008E	Fareham	14	23,079
E01022733	Fareham 003D	Fareham	15	23,115
E01022769	Fareham 008G	Fareham	16	24,213
E01022787	Fareham 002E	Fareham	17	24,341
E01022724	Fareham 008D	Fareham	18	24,351
E01022755	Fareham 006A	Fareham	19	25,021
E01022758	Fareham 001A	Fareham	20	25,156
E01022721	Fareham 008A	Fareham	21	25,928
E01022768	Fareham 010D	Fareham	22	26,306
E01022762	Fareham 012C	Fareham	23	26,773
E01022792	Fareham 006D	Fareham	24	26,852
E01022780	Fareham 002D	Fareham	25	27,600
E01022782	Fareham 007B	Fareham	26	28,493
E01022730	Fareham 003A	Fareham	27	28,517
E01022757	Fareham 005D	Fareham	28	28,537
E01022765	Fareham 010C	Fareham	29	28,547
E01022729	Fareham 004E	Fareham	30	28,638
E01022742	Fareham 009C	Fareham	31	28,791
E01022754	Fareham 002C	Fareham	32	29,021
E01022743	Fareham 004F	Fareham	33	29,079
E01022740	Fareham 009A	Fareham	34	29,247
E01022727	Fareham 004D	Fareham	35	29,363
E01022788	Fareham 002F	Fareham	36	29,443
E01022753	Fareham 002B	Fareham	37	29,508
E01022759	Fareham 010A	Fareham	38	29,529
E01022774	Fareham 001E	Fareham	39	29,789
E01022763	Fareham 010B	Fareham	40	29,970
E01022731	Fareham 003B	Fareham	41	30,006
E01022766	Fareham 008F	Fareham	42	30,028
E01022786	Fareham 007D	Fareham	43	30,278
E01022789	Fareham 007E	Fareham	44	30,285
E01022751	Fareham 005B	Fareham	45	30,304
E01022773	Fareham 001D	Fareham	46	30,496
E01022785	Fareham 007C	Fareham	47	30,578
E01022756	Fareham 006B	Fareham	48	30,604
E01022772	Fareham 001C	Fareham	49	30,608
E01022783	Fareham 009D	Fareham	50	30,937
E01022767	Fareham 012E	Fareham	51	30,990
E01022725	Fareham 004B	Fareham	52	31,156
E01022749	Fareham 002A	Fareham	53	31,333
E01022741	Fareham 009B	Fareham	54	31,400
E01022771	Fareham 001B	Fareham	55	31,517
E01022720	Fareham 004A	Fareham	56	31,616
E01022784	Fareham 009E	Fareham	57	31,673
E01022770	Fareham 010E	Fareham	58	31,714
E01022791	Fareham 006C	Fareham	59	31,811
E01022750	Fareham 005A	Fareham	60	32,002
E01022726	Fareham 004C	Fareham	61	32,108
E01022793	Fareham 006E	Fareham	62	32,166
E01022790	Fareham 005E	Fareham	63	32,429
E01022752	Fareham 005C	Fareham	64	32,444

Government Departments: Correspondence

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the average daily number of messages sent between officials or Ministers in all Departments by means of an instant message system; and by what means such messages are saved. [232479]

Mr. Watson: The Department has made no estimate of the average daily number of messages sent between officials of Ministers in all Departments by means of an instant message system or the means by which such messages are saved.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* Capacitybuilders has given to (a) the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, (b) Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and (c) Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in the last 24 months. [233241]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has not directly funded these organisations in the last 24 months.

Over the past two years Capacitybuilders has awarded grants to Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO) under various programmes. GMCVO is the accountable body for Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and. Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium, so these are not independent organisations.

The total funding received is as follows:

Financial year	*Funding to GMCVO (£)*
2006-07	540,847
2007-08	460,021
Total	1,000,868

Figures for the 2008-09 financial year will be available once the departmental accounts have been audited and laid before Parliament, expected to be shortly before the summer recess.

Local Government: Manpower

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many full-time equivalent total employee jobs there were in English local government in each year since 1996. [232670]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning how many full-time equivalent total employee jobs there were in English local government, according to Office for National Statistics figures, in each year since 1996. I am replying in her absence. (232670)

The Office for National Statistics collects employment statistics for the public sector, including local government, as part of the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey. A consistent time-series for full-time equivalents is only available back to 1999. The requested statistics are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Employment in local government, England, 1999 to 2008

Full-time equivalent, Thousand, not seasonally adjusted

Year[1]	*Local government*
1999	1,456
2000	1,471
2001	1,461
2002	1,466
2003	1,486
2004	1,509
2005	1,527
2006	1,552
2007	1,558
2008	1,543

[1] Quarter 2 figures are used as an annual reference point.

Source:

(Unpublished) Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish the papers from the 2002 seminar on NHS IT held at Downing Street. [233304]

Mr. Watson: Papers relating to the 2002 seminar on NHS IT held at Downing street were released following a Freedom of Information request and can be found on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/foi/reading_room.aspx

Copies have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Office for National Statistics: Internet

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Office for National Statistics is taking to develop its website. [232690]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Dennis Roberts, dated November 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what steps the Office for National Statistics is taking to improve its website. I am replying in her absence. (232690)

The Statistics and Registration Service Act gained Royal Assent in July 2007 and lead to the creation of the UK Statistics Authority on 1 April 2008 (the ONS is now the executive arm of the Authority). At the same time, the Authority (via ONS) launched a new Publication Hub which provides a single portal to new national statistics releases from the Government Statistical Service. ONS is currently undertaking a further redevelopment of this Hub, in order to provide additional services to users, including enhanced search and a new online Catalogue of official statistical products and supporting documentation, underpinned by a theme-based Taxonomy classification of all products. ONS is also redeveloping its own website in order to improve the way in which its statistics are presented, both in its publications and in the way in which the underlying data is made available to users. It is planned to implement the initial changes over the course of the next six months, and to continue to enhance the websites thereafter.

The impact of these changes will be to enhance public confidence in official statistics. Statistical press releases from government departments are already being published on the Hub; free from Ministerial influence. In addition, there will be an improved experience for users of statistics by providing greater coherence in the publication of statistics over the internet, consistent with the 'transformation of government' agenda. Users should experience easier access to statistics, whilst at the same time gaining wider knowledge of all available official statistics. The provision of ONS datasets and an ability to analyse the data on-line will enhance the satisfaction of statistics users.

Older Workers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate he has made of the percentage of the workforce which will be over age 65 in *(a)* 2012, *(b)* 2015 and *(c)* 2020. [231840]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the percentage of the workforce which will be aged over 65 in a) 2012, b) 2015 and c) 2020 (231840).

According to the Office for National Statistics (ONS) labour force projections published in January 2006, the percentage of the workforce aged 65 and over will be 2.2 per cent in 2012, 2.4 per cent in 2015 and 2.4 per cent in 2020.

The workforce is defined as those who are economically active which includes all people aged 16 and over who are either in employment or ILO unemployed.

The labour force projections used to answer this question are ONS's best estimate available of the future labour force, based on demographic and activity rate trends available in 2005. Since their publication new population estimates and population projections have been produced. The labour force projections are therefore not consistent with figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release. ONS is working to update the labour force projections using more recent activity rate trends and up-to-date population estimates and projections. We expect that revised labour force projections will be published in spring 2009.

Given these estimates are derived from a sample survey and use modelling techniques to project past trends forward over a long time period of time they are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

Further information on the methodology behind the current labour force projections is available from the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/CCI/article.asp?ID=1346&Pos=1&ColRank=&Rank=224

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what percentage of the workforce is aged over *(a)* 50, *(b)* 65 and *(c)* 70. [231952]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of the workforce is aged over (a) 50, (b) 65 and (c) 70. (231952)

The workforce has been defined as people aged 16 and over who are economically active. Economically active comprises all those in employment plus those unemployed. The table provides the percentage shares of the total economically active population for the age groups requested.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS) using the latest data available (April-June 2008). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The estimates in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Percentage share of total economically active[1] population, aged 16+, three month period ending June 2008, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Age	*Economically active (percentage)*
50 and over	26.2
65 and over	2.3
70 and over	0.8

[1] Economically active comprises all those in employment plus those unemployed
It should be noted that the estimates:
exclude people living in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).
Source:
Labour Force Survey

Population

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what the latest population projections for the UK are for *(a)* 2031, *(b)* 2056 and *(c)* 2081; [232200]

(2) what estimate has been made of when the population of the UK is expected to reach 70 million; [232201]

(3) what estimate has been made of the effect on total UK population of zero net migration by *(a)* 2031, *(b)* 2056 and *(c)* 2081. [232202]

Kevin Brennan *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your questions asking:

(1) what the latest population projections for the UK are for (a) 2031 (b) 2056 and (c) 2081. (232200);

(2) what estimate has been made of when the population of the UK is expected to reach 70 million (232201); and

(3) what estimate has been made of the effect on total UK population of zero net migration by (a) 2031 (b) 2056 and (c) 2081/(232202).

The most recent national population projections, based on the population at the middle of 2006, were published by the Office for National Statistics on 23 October 2007. The main, or principal, projections are based on the best assumptions available at the time of future expected levels of migration, fertility and mortality. The attached table below gives the projected UK population under the principal projections for the three years requested (1).

Under the principal projection the population of the UK is projected to reach 70 million in 2028 (2).

Variant projections are also produced to show the effect of plausible alternative projections based on higher or lower assumptions. These can be used to illustrate the consequences of a particular set of assumptions. ONS publish a variant projection based on the assumption that net migration is zero throughout the projection period. The projected UK population totals for this variant projection can also be found in the table below (3).

Total projected population of the UK 2006—based national population projections

Million

	Principal projection (1)	*Zero migration variant projection (3)*
2031	71.1	63.8
2056	78.6	61.5
2081	85.3	57.3

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Emergency Lending

5. **Dr. Cable:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditionality is being applied to emergency UK lending to developing countries in response to the global financial situation. [233025]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government are not directly providing emergency lending to developing countries in response to the global financial situation. The Department for International Development (DFID) has already initiated a 'vulnerability study' of our PSA—public service agreement—countries to help inform future funding decisions. We continue to support international financial institutions in their efforts to provide emergency financial support.

Afghanistan

6. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's delivery

of humanitarian aid in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [233026]

Mr. Michael Foster: DFID has responded swiftly to the humanitarian situation through capable operational agencies, particularly the World Food Programme (WFP). Since January, we have committed £16.5 million to alleviate food shortages. This includes:

(i) £11 million to help feed 4.5 million people; and

(ii) £5.5 million to provide agricultural input including seeds, fertilisers, technical assistance to boost food production, and credit.

We are monitoring the situation.

Millennium Development Goals

8. **Mr. Kidney:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with his G8 counterparts on meeting their commitments of funding for the achievement of the millennium development goals, with particular reference to Africa. [233028]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have regular discussions with my G8 counterparts in the course of international business in relation to the achievement of the millennium development goals, including at the UN MDG summit in New York on 25 September. The UK is on track to provide 0.7 per cent. of our national income in overseas development assistance by 2013 and we encourage others to do so.

Burma

9. **Mr. Evans:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [233029]

10. **John Howell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [233030]

14. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [233034]

Mr. Michael Foster: Humanitarian conditions in the areas of Burma hit by Cyclone Nargis have improved significantly since access to international aid was opened at the end of May. DFID has contributed £45 million to the relief effort. However, very many people in the Irrawaddy Delta remain highly vulnerable.

DFID's pre-cyclone programme of £12 million in 2008-09 continues to help people suffering severe poverty across Burma, as well as Burmese refugees in Thailand.

Kosovo

11. **Sandra Gidley:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian aid his Department is providing to Kosovo; and if he will make a statement. [233031]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) is fully engaged in assisting the new country of Kosovo. DFID no longer provides direct humanitarian assistance to Kosovo as this is no longer required, apart from the provision given by the UNHCR to the small number of internally displaced persons remaining. UNHCR has been the sole provider of this support since the UN Administration in Kosovo closed its humanitarian section in 2001.

In 2007-08, DFID provided £3.2 million to Kosovo in development assistance, directed at helping establish effective governance in Kosovo.

Ethiopia

12. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what aid his Department is providing to Ethiopia; and if he will make a statement. [233032]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) programme in Ethiopia is focused on: improving governance and accountability; promoting human development, including better health, education, water and sanitation; supporting sustainable growth; and providing humanitarian support. We expect to spend £165 million in Ethiopia this year, including at least £35 million in response to the humanitarian crisis.

The Secretary of State visited Ethiopia last month to assess the impact of UK support. He commended the good progress made on expanding access to basic services and raised concerns at the humanitarian situation in the Somali region of the country, and the expected impact of proposed legislation to regulate civil society funding and activities.

Horn of Africa

13. **Paul Rowen:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing for famine relief in the horn of Africa. [233033]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has contributed over £120 million in 2008 towards unmet humanitarian needs in the horn of Africa. These funds are in support of short-term food aid and supplementary feeding programmes, emergency water and sanitation, as well as medium-term cash and food-based safety net programmes in the worst affected areas.

The Secretary of State, who visited Ethiopia last month to assess the impact of UK support, has expressed concern about the need to expand access to relief operations both in the Somali region of Ethiopia and in Somalia.

Zimbabwe

15. **Andrew Stunell:** To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [233035]

Mrs. Dorries: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Zimbabwe; and if he will make a statement. [233027]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In a deteriorating humanitarian situation, 5 million people will rely on food aid by early 2009. Cholera risks are increasing, strained health services are collapsing and recent reports suggest only 40 per cent. of teachers present at school. Aid agencies are working to make the best of the next growing season. Zimbabwe will likely remain dependent on food aid for some time to come. DFID will spend £44 million this year meeting basic needs.

Afghanistan: Christian Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of attacks on Christian aid workers in Afghanistan since January 2008; and if he will make a statement. [232124]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not make estimates as to the number of attacks on UK aid workers in Afghanistan. The Afghanistan NGO Security Office (ANSO) produces reports that include details of security incidents involving NGOs. The reports do not disaggregate incidents by faith.

Afghanistan: Health Centres

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funds the Government *(a)* has provided and *(b)* plans to provide for the health clinic in Musa Qala, Helmand province, Afghanistan; and when he expects the project to be completed. [232089]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government have provided $308,336 for the construction of the district centre health clinic in Musa Qala. This clinic is due for completion in November 2008, with doctors and support staff ready to start work once the project is finished.

The UK Government also provided $329,777 for the health clinic in Towghli Kell, Musa Qala. This project is now complete and the clinic is open, providing affordable public health facilities to the community.

Afghanistan: Roads

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the condition of the main bazaar road in Musa Qala, Helmand province, Afghanistan; what funding the Government have provided for the reconstruction of the road; and if he will make a statement. [232090]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK Government, through the cross-governmental Stabilisation Unit, provided $200,000 to pave the 750 metre road through the bazaar in Musa Qala district centre. This project was identified as a priority by the local community, and its construction provided employment for local workers.

The new road, with drainage channels, is an improvement on the previous mud track. Alongside other UK-funded road projects in Musa Qala, this project has enhanced the freedom of movement for local inhabitants and provides improved access to market for local traders.

Afghanistan: Utilities

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to improve the *(a)* electricity and *(b)* water supply in Musa Qala, Helmand province, Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [232088]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Joint Department for International Development (DFID), Foreign and Commonwealth (FCO) and Ministry of Defence (MOD) funding pays for the fuel for the generator which supplies the main bazaar area of Musa Qala town. The UK provincial reconstruction team has also conducted an electrical survey and general infrastructure assessment of Musa Qala, to help the District Governor and Executive Shura plan future programmes.

Musa Qala also receives electricity from the Kajaki dam on a rotation of two days on, two days off. The Kajaki dam will provide for the long-term electricity requirements in Musa Qala. A large-scale programme to increase the power supply from Kajaki dam is being undertaken by USAID, with security support from the UK-led Task Force Helmand. Power output from Kajaki is due to double by spring 2009, improving electricity supply to Helmand, including Musa Qala.

The UK-led provincial reconstruction team in Helmand, with joint DFID, FCO, and MOD funding, is constructing two water towers and distribution centres in Musa Qala, to supply safe water to the community at a central location.

In addition, with DFID funding, 175 drinking water wells are being constructed in several locations in Musa Qala district through the Ministry of Reconstruction and Rural Development.

Democratic Republic of Congo

Mr. Moore: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what response his Department has made to the humanitarian crisis in Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233948]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Following a request from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Department for International Development (DFID) is organising relief flights with plastic sheeting, blankets, water purification tablets and buckets for immediate distribution to those in need. DFID funded partners are able to get some assistance to those displaced and in need in and around Goma and some of the secure outlying areas. The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), UNICEF, the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental partners such as Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Merlin and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) have been providing immediate relief aid such as emergency food, health, shelter and non-food items.

DFID is one of the largest and most active humanitarian donors in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). A recent additional £5 million contribution for the crisis in North Kivu brings our total contribution in 2008 to £42 million. We are also engaged with humanitarian contacts, not least as current chair of the Good Humanitarian Donorship Group in DRC, to help assess the situation, co-ordinate donors and ensure that together donors respond to priority needs.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of *(a)* the numbers displaced by the recent fighting in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, *(b)* their humanitarian needs and *(c)* whether aid is reaching those in need. [233081]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Current estimates of the United Nations (UN) show that 55,000 have been displaced over the past week. This is in addition to some 250,000 displaced since August 2008, bringing the total number of displaced (IDPs) in North Kivu to some 900,000.

From our discussions with UN and NGO partners, we believe the current urgent needs are for food, shelter, non-food items (such as blankets, water containers, hygiene kits) water and sanitation and health.

As access improves and the fighting subsides, some aid is getting through. DFID funded partners, including the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), United Nations agencies such as the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental partners such as Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF), Merlin and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) are providing immediate relief aid in Goma and/or CNDP controlled areas north of Goma.

DFID is one of the largest and most active humanitarian donors in the Democratic Republic of Congo. We have recently announced an additional £5 million for North Kivu and this brings our total humanitarian contribution in 2008 for DRC to £42 million. Our assistance will be provided through an in-kind donation of emergency supplies to UNICEF (plastic sheeting, blankets, water purifications tablets and buckets) and financial grants to key partner agencies able to deliver immediate assistance on the ground.

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department is providing to civilians internally displaced by the renewed fighting in the east of the Democratic Republic of Congo. [233319]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: On Friday 31 October, I announced an additional £5 million for humanitarian needs in North Kivu, bringing our total support for humanitarian needs in DRC during 2008 to £42 million. Part of these funds are being used for relief flights bringing plastic sheeting, blankets, water purification tablets and buckets for immediate distribution to those in need, following a request for help from UNICEF. We are discussing with UN and NGO partners the priorities for the rest of the £5 million.

In addition, our existing support is being used by the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the World Food Programme (WFP) and non-governmental partners such as Médecins sans Frontières (MSF), Merlin and the International Rescue Committee (IRC) to provide immediate relief aid such as emergency food, health, shelter and non-food items.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230953]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have not undertaken any personal training courses at public expense since my appointment.

Developing Countries: Agriculture

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what proportion of his Department's budget was spent on international agricultural research in each of the last five years. [231674]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) is a major funder of agricultural research. The percentage of the total DFID budget spent on agricultural research in the last five years ranges between 0.70 per cent. and 0.98 per cent. of DFID's overall budget.

	Percentage
2003-04	0.80
2004-05	0.98
2005-06	0.79
2006-07	0.70
2007-08	0.73

Overseas Aid: Departmental Coordination

Mr. Andrew Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which other Government departments provided funds to the UN Development Programme as stated in Statistics on International Development 2008, page 124; and how much was so provided in each of the last three years. [232822]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is the only other Government Department that provided funds to the United Nations Development Programme, as stated in Statistics for International Development 2008, page 124. The FCO provided £9,360,000 in 2006-07 and £2,707,000 in 2007-08.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people who are internally displaced in Sri Lanka as a result of the recent upsurge in violence; what aid the Government is giving as a result; and if he will make a statement. [231867]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Mid-Norfolk (Mr. Simpson) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 936W, and the answer given to my right hon. Friend the Member for Leicester, East (Keith Vaz) on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1343-44.

Zimbabwe: Bank Services

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what safeguards are in place to ensure that foreign exchange deposited in the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe by non-governmental organisations is not misappropriated; and if he will make a statement. [232119]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) holds all aid funds for Zimbabwe in offshore accounts and we encourage our partners to do the same to prevent pilfering by the Reserve Bank. Under current regulatory rules established by the Reserve Bank, NGOs lodge their funds with commercial banks and not with the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe (RBZ). We aim to deliver DFID programmes using as little Zimbabwe currency as possible. Increasingly, as the economy declines, the use of foreign currency in Zimbabwe has become easier. Most of our procurement is done in foreign currency in accordance with EC rules and outside Zimbabwe. Goods are imported with tax and customs exemptions.

Where funds have to be expended in local currency, money is transferred to local commercial banks for exchange at the best available rate and in small amounts at a time in order to preserve value. Similarly, some foreign currency payments need to be made from local bank accounts. DFID holds regular discussions with NGOs and other implementing partners to ensure that they are able to operate without interference. No DFID funds are transferred to the Government of Zimbabwe and no payments are made through the Reserve Bank.

HEALTH

Abuse

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if his Department will place in the Library its most recent assessment of serious case reviews in respect of abuse of vulnerable adults. [232567]

Phil Hope: The Department commissioned and funded Kings college London to undertake research on serious case reviews in England and Wales. This has been received and is currently being considered by the Department. A report is expected to be published this winter.

Alcoholic Drinks: Health Education

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what contracts were awarded to carry out his Department's recent consultation on the alcohol strategy; and at what cost. [228981]

Dawn Primarolo: Four contracts have been awarded to carry out the Government's recent public consultation on alcohol:

1. The Central Office of Information (COI) was awarded a £42,071 contract to produce the consultation documents;

2. COI was awarded a £7,091 contract to produce consultation postcards;

3. The Royal Mail Freepost service is used for returning the postcards, the cost of this service so far is £214.40; and

4. COI was awarded a contract to run regional engagement workshops, at a provisional cost of £208,000.

Breast Cancer

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of *(a)* women and *(b)* men diagnosed with breast cancer recovered fully in the latest period for which figures are available. [231208]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking what percentage of (a) women and (b) men diagnosed with breast cancer recovered fully in the latest period for which figures are available. [231208]

It cannot be stated definitively whether a patient with breast cancer has 'recovered fully' after treatment. For most cancer, but not breast, five-year survival rates are often taken to be 'cure' rates.

The five-year relative survival rate for (a) women patients diagnosed with breast cancer during 1999-2003 in England was 81%. Table 1 shows the predicted long-term relative survival rates for women diagnosed with breast cancer in 2001-2003 (the most recent period for which data are available).

ONS does not produce survival rates for (b) men diagnosed with breast cancer because of the relatively small number of men diagnosed. Male breast cancer accounts for less than one per cent of all breast cancer cases.

Table 1: Predicted long-term relative survival[1] from breast cancer for female patients aged 15 to 99, England and Wales, 2001-03[2]

Duration of survival	*Relative survival (Percentage)*
1 year	94.0
5 years	80.3

Table 1: Predicted long-term relative survival[1] from breast cancer for female patients aged 15 to 99, England and Wales, 2001-03[2]

Duration of survival	Relative survival (Percentage)
10 years	71.7
15 years	67.5
20 years	64.5

[1] Relative survival takes into account that some cancer patients will die from causes other than their cancer.

[2] Based on all women diagnosed with breast cancer between 1981 and 2001, who were alive for at least part of the period 2001-03.

Source:

Office for National Statistics.

Available on the ONS website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=14172

Care Homes: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire received a (i) 0 star rating (poor), (ii) 1 star rating (adequate), (iii) 2 star rating (good) and (iv) 3 star rating (excellent) in each year since 2000. [232692]

Phil Hope: I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that CSCI can only provide the information requested from May 2008, when the star rating system was launched. This is shown in the following tables.

The first table shows star ratings for nursing homes in Hertfordshire published in May and the second table shows the latest data available. All figures are inclusive of Hemel Hempstead. CSCI does not collect data for Hemel Hempstead separately because it is not a council with adult social services responsibility.

Distribution of star ratings of nursing homes in Hertfordshire council area at 7 May 2008

	Number
0 stars—poor	1
1 star—adequate	15
2 stars—good	27
3 stars—excellent	9
Not yet rated	1
Total	53

Distribution of star ratings of nursing homes in Hertfordshire council area at 30 October 2008

	Number
0 stars—poor	1
1 star—adequate	15
2 stars—good	30
3 stars—excellent	9
Not yet rated	2
Total	57

Source:

CSQ database

Care Homes: Inspections

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nursing homes inspected by the Commission for Social Care Inspection in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire received a (i) 0 star rating (poor), (ii) 1 star rating (adequate), (iii) 2 star rating (good) and (iv) 3 star rating (excellent) in each year since 2000. [232363]

Phil Hope: I am informed by the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI) that the information can be provided only from May 2008, when the star rating system began. This is shown in the following tables.

The first table shows star ratings for nursing homes in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough published in May 2008 and the second table shows the latest data available.

Distribution of star ratings of nursing homes in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire council areas at 7 May 2008

	0 Stars (Poor)	*1 Star (Adequate)*	*2 Stars (Good)*	*3 Stars (Excellent)*	*Not yet rated*	*Total*
Cambridgeshire	2	19	10	2	3	36
Peterborough	1	3	3	1	0	8
Total	3	22	13	3	3	44

Distribution of star ratings of nursing homes in Peterborough and Cambridgeshire council areas at 30 October 2008

	0 Stars (Poor)	*1 Star (Adequate)*	*2 Stars (Good)*	*3 Stars (Excellent)*	*Not yet rated*	*Total*
Cambridgeshire	0	14	19	2	1	36
Peterborough	0	3	4	1	0	8
Total	0	17	23	3	1	44

Source:

CSCI database

Carter Review of Pathology Services

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish the Carter Review of Pathology Services. [232167]

Dawn Primarolo: The final report of the Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services in England, chaired by Lord Carter of Coles, is scheduled for publication by early December 2008.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what provision *(a)* South West Herts Acute Hospital Trust and *(b)* South West Herts Primary Care Trust have made for chronic fatigue syndrome or myalgic encephalomyelitis services; what specific funding they receive to deliver these services; and if he will make a statement. [231879]

Ann Keen: The provision and funding of services for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis is a matter for the local NHS. From 2008-09, funding has been added to primary care trust baseline allocations.

Community Care

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire of 30 June 2008, *Official*

Report, column 615W, on community care, how much the NHS spent on NHS-funded nursing care in each year; and what projections he has made of *(a)* number receiving such care and *(b)* cost of the care in each of the next 20 years. [231980]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information on the cost of providing national health service-funded nursing care is not collected centrally.

The Department commissioned the Personal Social Services Research Unit (PSSRU) at the London School of Economics to produce projections of long-term care for older people and associated expenditure. Their latest projections are published in PSSRU Discussion Paper 2514 of March 2008 (Wittenberg et al, 2008), a copy of which has been placed in the Library.

Community Care: Disabled

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to ensure that disabled people living *(a)* with their families and *(b)* in residential homes are integrated into the wider community. [232707]

Phil Hope: The Government's five-year Independent Living Strategy aims to ensure disabled people have greater access to housing, transport, health, employment, education and leisure opportunities and to participation in family and community life.

The Government wants every locality to have a single community-based support system, which focuses on all aspects of what people need to maximise their health and well-being and to participate in family and community life. The right of the individual disabled person to determine the kinds of services and support that they need will be at the heart of this reformed system.

National minimum standards for care homes require that arrangements be made to enable residents to engage in local, social and community activities and to visit, or maintain contact or communicate with their families and friends.

Dental Services: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of dental patients in the West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust area were treated *(a)* by the NHS and *(b)* privately in each year from 1997 to 2007. [231934]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. Information on patients treated privately is not collected.

The number of patients registered with an NHS dentist as a proportion of the population, in England, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex B of the NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA) where appropriate.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report, published on 23 August 2006, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ("patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

Information on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England, over the previous 24-month period, as a percentage of the population is available in Table C2 of Annex 3 of the NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2006-07 report. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March, 2006 and 2007. This information is provided by SHA and by PCT.

This report, published on 23 August 2007, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0607

Both reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Increasing the number of patients seen within the NHS dental service is now a national priority in The Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2008-09. We have supported this with an 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008. Copies of the Operating Framework are already available in the Library.

Dental Services: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis in England in each of the last five years. [231553]

Ann Keen: The information is not available in the format requested.

The number of national health service dentists, as at 31 March, 1997 to 2006 is available in Table 4 of the 'NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006'.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on primary care trust (PCT) lists as at 31 March each year. This information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in Table 32 of the 'NHS Dental Statistics for England:

2007/08' report. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Data on full-time equivalent dentists are not available.

Departmental Dismissal

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of his staff were dismissed for improper conduct in the latest period for which figures are available. [226853]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures are only available from the start of 2005. Since then no civil servants have been dismissed from the Department for improper conduct.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff employed in his Department have been dismissed, or have had their employment contract otherwise terminated, for failure to perform to the standard expected since 2005. [226862]

Mr. Bradshaw: Figures are only available from the start of 2005. Since then no civil servants have been dismissed from the Department, or have had their employment terminated, for failure to perform to the standards expected.

Departmental NDPBs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any office premises are shared between each of *(a)* Monitor, *(b)* the Standing Dental Advisory Committee, *(c)* the Doctors and Dentist Review Body, *(d)* the NHS Litigation Authority, *(e)* the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, *(f)* the NHS Business Services Authority and *(g)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency and another publicly-funded body; and what rent each organisation paid for its offices in the last 12 months. [232457]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Standing Dental Advisory Committee has no premises. The Doctors and Dentists Review Body is one of the six independent Pay Review Bodies, the secretariat for which is provided by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME). The OME's office premises are the responsibility of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

No premises are shared between the other organisations listed. It is not possible to determine whether offices for the remaining organisations are shared with other publicly funded bodies as this information is not held centrally in the Department.

Available figures for the 12-month rental costs for offices for each organisation is as follows:

	£
(a) Monitor	355,015
(b) Standing Dental Advisory Committee	n/a
(c) Doctors and Dentists Review Body	n/a
(d) NHS Litigation Authority	638,078
(e) NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	326,496
(f) NHS Business Services Authority	2,200,311
(g) NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	332,500

Doctors: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire in each year since 1997. [232362]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 population for Peterborough and Cambridgeshire Primary Care Trusts (PCTs) for 2006 and 2007. Information is not available for the years prior to 2006 because the complex mergers of the old organisations that created these PCTs mean it is not possible to provide a consistent time series.

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population for specified organisations, 2006 and 2007

		Headcount
	2006	2007
Peterborough PCT	57.6	60.0
Cambridgeshire PCT	66.8	69.0

Notes:

1. Although PCTs serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts are not defined in this way. Consequently it is not possible to give a figure for the number of hospital doctors per 100,000 population as it would only include those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete. Thus numbers provided here are for GPs only.

2. Peterborough PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of North Peterborough PCT and a part merger of South Peterborough PCT (Peterborough part). Cambridgeshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Cambridge City PCT, East Cambridgeshire and Fenland PCT, Huntingdonshire PCT, South Cambridgeshire PCT and with a part merger of South Peterborough PCT (Cambridgeshire elements). Due to these part mergers of old PCTs to create these two organisations it is not possible to map figures back prior to 2006 and provide a consistent time series.

3. Data as at 30 September 2006 and 2007

4. Data Quality: Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and PCTs in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care: general and personal medical services statistics: and Office for National Statistics population figures: 2006-2007 mid-year estimates based on 2001 census.

Doctors: Manpower

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors per 100,000 residents there were in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [231926]

Ann Keen: Information is not available in the format requested. The following table shows the number of general practitioners (GPs) per 100,000 population for health authorities (HAs) and primary care trusts (PCTs) in Hertfordshire and for Hertfordshire as a whole in each year since 1997.

GPs (excluding retainers and registrars) per 100,000 population in Hertfordshire, 1997 to 2007

Headcount

Area	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
East and North Hertfordshire HA	57.3	59.0	57.8	56.0	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
West Hertfordshire HA	56.7	57.1	57.3	57.7	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
East and North Hertfordshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	56.4	56.3	57.4	59.8	60.8	60.1	59.8
West Hertfordshire PCT	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	60.0	60.9	61.7	63.5	64.9	65.8	65.9
Hertfordshire (total)	57.0	58.0	57.5	56.9	58.2	58.6	59.6	61.6	62.9	62.9	62.8

n/a = not applicable

Notes:

1. Although PCTs serve a defined geographical area, hospital trusts do not. Consequently, it is not possible to give a figure for the number of hospital doctors per 100,000 population, as it would include only those employed directly by the PCT and would be incomplete. Thus, numbers are provided for GPs only.
2. East and North Hertfordshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of North Hertfordshire and Stevenage PCT, Royston, Buntingford and Bishop's Stortford PCT, South East Hertfordshire PCT and Welwyn Hatfield PCT. West Hertfordshire PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Dacorum PCT, Hertsmere PCT, St Albans and Harpenden PCT and Watford and Three Rivers PCT. Data for the years 2001-2005 in the table have been presented using the 2006 format for purposes of presentation and comparison.
3. Prior to the existence of PCTs, in the years 1997-2000 Hertfordshire was served by East and North Hertfordshire HA and West Hertfordshire HA.
4. Data for Hemel Hempstead are not available. Data are available for trusts and PCTs that provide or provided services within the Hemel Hempstead constituency.
5. Data at 1 October 1997-99 and 30 September 2000-07.
6. Data quality: Work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 national health service trusts and PCTs in England. The Information Centre liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed, but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care: general and personal medical services statistics; and Office for National Statistics population figures: 1997-2000 mid-year estimates based on 1991 census, 2001-2007 mid-year estimates based on 2001 census.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of methadone prescriptions relating to substance abuse were made by general practitioners in the latest period for which figures are available; and how many of these were not made as part of formal drug treatment programmes. [229663]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1557W.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse does not collect data on prescriptions made outside of structured drug treatment programmes.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were prescribed *(a)* methadone and *(b)* other hard drug substitutes in each of the last five years. [229665]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse collects data on the local services via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS). The NDTMS does not record the specific substitute drug a drug misuser in treatment is prescribed and while the majority of clients will have received methadone, clients' treatment programmes/regimes may have included buprenorphine and diamorphine.

The following table shows the number of clients receiving substitute prescribing in both primary care (general practitioner prescribing) and secondary care (specialist prescribing).

	Number of clients
2007-08	131,468
2006-07	118,107
2005-06	107,093
2004-05	88,196

Figures are not provided for 2003-04 for data quality reasons. The current NDTMS data collection began in April 2004 and although some data was collected retrospectively for the period 2003-04 this is incomplete.

Elderly: Abuse

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the number of vulnerable older people who have undergone physical or physiological abuse in residential care homes in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [229245]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not held centrally. However, residential care homes are required by the care home regulations and national minimum standards to record all allegations and incidents of abuse, together with the follow-up actions taken. Where harm or risk of harm occurs, care homes have a legal duty to make a referral to the Protection of Vulnerable Adults list. Care home managers should also be aware of their local authority safeguarding arrangements and make appropriate referrals to the Adult Protection Co-ordinator.

On 16 October the Government launched a public consultation on the review of the local safeguarding guidance 'No Secrets'. This guidance provides a framework for councils to work with the police, the national health service and regulators to tackle abuse and prevent it from occurring. A copy of the consultation document 'Safeguarding Adults: A consultation on the Review of the 'No Secrets' Guidance' is available in the House of Commons Library and the DH website

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_089098

Work is under way to develop an annual data collection of adult abuse referrals in England. The NHS Information Centre (IC) for health and social care is leading the work, and has now undertaken a pilot collection from 40 local authorities. The data are currently being analysed. Subject to the outcome of the pilot, the IC expects to be able to implement a data collection across all councils during 2009-10.

The Government acknowledge that more information is needed about the experiences of vulnerable adults in care homes. That is why on 27 March 2008, the Department and Comic Relief announced £2 million funding for a new joint research initiative investigating the dignity and safety of older people being cared for in institutional settings. This will explore the experience of older people, and the staff who care for them, in settings such as care homes, intermediate care and hospitals. It builds on the earlier research and is likely to run until April 2011. The tender exercise for this is currently under way.

Gender Variant People

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many copies of his Department's guidance for GPs, other clinicians and health professionals on the treatment of gender variant people and related leaflets have been printed; what the budget for distribution of the documents is; what criteria were used for the dissemination of the documents to *(a)* commissioners of services, *(b)* general practitioners and *(c)* other clinicians and health professionals; and if he will make a statement. [231300]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not collected centrally. The Department's guidance for general practitioners and other professionals on the care of gender variant people, first published in May 2008, has been placed in the Library.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 64W, on health centres, what arrangements his Department has made for primary care trusts to fulfill their obligations under the GP-led health centres programme in cases where a trust has already put out to tender for a GP-led health centre and does not have a valid requirement for a further centre. [231061]

Ann Keen: The national GP Patient Survey demonstrates that in all primary care trusts (PCTs) there remains a level of patient dissatisfaction in accessing general practitioner (GP) services. This year patients identified a 2 per cent. reduction in satisfaction with access to their GP. Each primary care trust will therefore benefit from the development of a new GP-led health centre that will allow any patient to access a GP from 8 am to 8 pm. seven days a week without having to change their normal registration with their existing practice. It will also allow more choice for patients in how they can access primary care services. We are looking to PCTs to come up with innovative solutions that meet their health care needs.

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 64W, on health centres, for what reason primary care trusts were not able to submit in their contribution to the GP-led health centre programme any proposed centre where the call for tender had already been issued. [231062]

Ann Keen: We have asked strategic health authorities to ensure that primary care trusts are guided by the principle that their plans for these new services should be in addition to any services that have already been commissioned.

Health Education: Finance

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on advertising campaigns on *(a)* smoking, *(b)* binge drinking and *(c)* drug awareness in each of the last five years. [231221]

Dawn Primarolo: The following tables show expenditure on smoking, binge drinking, and drug awareness advertising in the period from 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Expenditure on smoking advertising

	£ million
2003-04	17.76
2004-05	20.10
2005-06	20.60
2006-07	12.50
2007-08	16.16

The current alcohol campaign was launched in October 2006.

Expenditure on alcohol harm reduction advertising[1]

	£ million
2006-07	1.90
2007-08	1.30

[1] Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home Office.

Expenditure on drugs education advertising

	£ million
2003-04	1.50
2004-05	1.99

Expenditure on drugs education advertising

	£ million
2005-06	1.26
2006-07	3.13
2007-08	2.00

[1] Department of Health contribution to campaign run jointly with Home.

Health: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people living in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have been diagnosed with (i) coronary heart disease, (ii) diabetes and (iii) food-related allergies. [232597]

Ann Keen: The Department does not collect information in the form requested. However, the national Quality and Outcomes Framework, which many general practices participate in, records the number of people recorded on certain practice disease registers. Such registers exist for both coronary heart disease (CHD) and diabetes.

The CHD register includes all patients who have had coronary artery revascularisation procedures such as coronary artery bypass grafting (CABG). However, patients with Cardiac Syndrome X will not generally be included in the CHD register.

The diabetes register includes patients aged 17 years and over with diabetes mellitus. As the care of children with diabetes mellitus is generally under the control of specialists, the diabetes register generally excludes those patients age 16 and under.

We are unable to supply this information for Hemel Hempstead or Hertfordshire but have supplied information for the health areas that best fit; namely West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) for Hemel Hempstead and West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs combined to represent Hertfordshire.

Information is shown in the following table.

The Department does not collect any data on food related allergies.

2007-08

Patient register	*Number of patients*
West Hertfordshire PCT	
Coronary heart disease	15,810
Diabetes	18,174
West Hertfordshire PCT and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs	
Coronary heart disease	32,967
Diabetes	37,611

Hepatitis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the prevalence of hepatitis B in each strategic health authority area. [232446]

Dawn Primarolo: The Health Protection Agency Centre for Infections is not able to produce estimates of the prevalence of hepatitis B at strategic health authority level.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department *(a)* has issued and *(b)* plans to issue to health commissioners on hepatitis B services. [232454]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave him on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 422-24W.

Maternity Services

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1172-76W, on maternity services, what the value is of the combined total damages of *(a)* all settled claims and *(b)* settled claims that arose from maternity care, awarded under the Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts. [231948]

Ann Keen: The NHS Litigation Authority has supplied the information requested, as of 30 September 2008, in the following table:

Specialty	*Total damages (£)*
Obstetrics	946,458,366
Non-obstetrics	1,228,051,128
Total	2,174,509,494

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1176W, on maternity services, how many of the midwife-led units were *(a)* situated alongside consultant-led units and *(b)* stand-alone units. [231949]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not collected centrally. However, information published as part of the Healthcare Commission's review of maternity services in England (January 2008) shows that of the 82 midwife-led units, 57 are stand alone units and 25 are situated alongside consultant-led units.

Medical Records

Mr. Bacon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) by what means a GP practice may transfer the medical records of patients who leave its catchment area and register with another practice; [232355]

(2) how many primary care trusts permit the transfer of patient records between GPs' practices *(a)* by electronic means, *(b)* on paper only and *(c)* by both paper and electronic means; [232356]

(3) what his Department's policy is on the practice of electronic transfer of patient records between GPs outside of the GP2GP system; [232357]

(4) how many primary care trusts convert electronic patient records into paper documentation for the purposes of transfer between GPs practices; how many of those are known to have made errors in the transcription of such documents; and how many such errors are known to have been made in the last three years. [232358]

Mr. Bradshaw: A practice must transfer the patient health record via the local primary care trust (PCT) as this is required by Regulations. In most cases this will involve transfer of the Lloyd George paper records but where the PCT has agreed this could be achieved by an electronic copy. Practices can also transfer a copy of the electronic record to a patient's new practice by a GP2GP electronic health record transfer. No information is collected centrally on the numbers of PCTs that transfer records by electronic, paper or by both these means.

GP2GP is the recognised, secure method of transferring patient records between general practitioner (GP) practices and some 4,800 practices have the ability to transfer records by GP2GP at the present time. The GP2GP project is working closely with those clinical system suppliers who are currently non-compliant to extend the scope of this service which brings benefits for patients and for doctors by enabling patient information to be securely transferred and available much quicker than before.

Where it has been agreed by the PCT that patient records may be transferred in an electronic format or indeed on paper, robust information governance standards must be applied to ensure the safe and secure transfer of the record. The national health service chief executive, has written to all NHS trust chief executives to confirm the information governance standards that must apply to patient data.

Information is not collected centrally on how many PCTs convert electronic patient records into paper documentation for the purposes of transfer between GP practices, nor the frequency that this occurs or on the number of transcription errors.

Methadone

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed methadone in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East, *(c)* Tees Valley district and *(d)* Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland constituency in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of those prescribed methadone in the UK in each of the last 10 years were aged (i) under 18, (ii) between 18 and 25, (iii) between 26 and 40 and (iv) over 40 years at the date of first prescription. [229857]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the number or age of patients treated with a particular drug. However we are able to provide two related sources of data covering the north east. These are the number of methadone prescriptions and the number of people receiving specialist prescribing treatment for drug misuse.

However, the number of items prescribed and dispensed for methadone is in the following table. Information is only held for the last 60 months and is based on the national health service organisation that most closely represents the areas requested.

Methadone can be used to treat more than one condition—it is licensed for use in opioid dependence, as an analgesic and as a cough suppressant.

Number of prescription items (not individuals receiving prescriptions) of methadone

Thousand

	Financial year			
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England (prescribed in the community in England and dispensed in the UK)	1,089.7	1,310.6	1,585.7	1,894.7
England (prescribed in hospitals and dispensed in the community in England)	769.4	797.1	750.7	651.7
Subtotal for North East	103.7	136.3	162.2	179.6
North East SHA[1]	—	—	124.5	179.6
Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA	28.6	38.9	12.2	—
County Durham and Tees Valley SHA	75.0	97.3	25.5	—
Stockton on Tees Teaching PCT	16.5	21.6	21.8	21.8
Middlesbrough PCT[2]	27.4	31.4	30.3	31.3
Redcar and Cleveland PCT[3]	1.6	2.5	4.9	5.5

Following the primary care trust (PCT) reconfiguration in 2006

[1] Northumberland, Tyne and Wear SHA and County Durham and Tees Valley SHA merged to form North East SHA.

[2] A part of Middlesbrough PCT joined with others to form Redcar and Cleveland PCT. Middlesbrough PCT remained but as a smaller PCT.

[3] Langbaurgh PCT merged with a part of Middlesbrough PCT and became Redcar and Cleveland PCT.

Notes:

1. Due to these changes it is not possible to compare the numbers of items prescribed in one year to the number in the next.
2. National figures for prescriptions written in hospitals and dispensed in the community in England are sourced from Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA).

Source:

For all other figures was the Prescribing Analysis and Cost Tool (PACT)

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's (NTA) National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data on people in drug treatment in England.

NDTMS records the numbers of people receiving specialist prescribing for drug treatment rather than the type of drug which is prescribed. Most of those in treatment receive oral methadone but buprenorphine or other substitute opioids may also be prescribed.

The NDTMS only records data based on local authority boundaries, and only since 2004-05. The NDTMS does not break down data specifically for the Tees Valley district, or Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland constituency, and only records data for England not the whole of the UK.

Data for the number of people receiving prescribing treatment for the local authority areas of Middlesbrough and Redcar and Cleveland, as well as the north east and England, for each of the years since 2004-05 is given in the following table.

Number of individuals receiving prescribing treatment (including methadone) for drug misuse

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Middlesbrough	962	905	1,038	1,137
Redcar and Cleveland	379	378	417	518
North East	6,248	7,175	7,930	9,145
England	88,196	107,093	118,107	131,468

The percentages of people receiving prescribing treatment in England, for the age brackets as requested and since 2004-05 are in the following table.

Percentage of people receiving prescribing treatment (including methadone) by age

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Under 18	1	0	0	0
18 to 25	28	25	24	22
26 to 40	58	61	62	64
40 plus	11	13	14	15

Note:

Due to rounding, percentages may not always total 100 per cent.

Methadone: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were prescribed methadone in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead, *(b)* West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust and *(c)* Hertfordshire in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage was aged (i) under 18, (ii) between 18 and 25, (iii) between 26 and 40 and (iv) over 40 years at the date of the first prescription. [231098]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the number or age of patients treated with a particular drug. However we are able to provide two related sources of data covering the Hertfordshire area. These are the number of methadone prescriptions and the number of people receiving specialist prescribing treatment for drug misuse.

The number of items prescribed and dispensed for methadone is in the following table. We are unable to supply information for the areas requested as they are not health regions. We have supplied information for the health areas that most closely fit those requested (West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) to represent Hemel Hempstead and West Hertfordshire and East and North Hertfordshire PCTs combined to represent Hertfordshire). Furthermore, some of these health areas have changed under the reconfiguration of PCTs in 2006, details of which are given as follows. Information is only held for the last 60 months.

Methadone can be used to treat more than one condition - it is licensed for use in opioid dependence, as an analgesic and as a cough suppressant.

Number of prescription items (not individuals receiving prescriptions) of methadone, as whole numbers

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Hertfordshire[1]	7,140	5,404	5,442	6,937
West Hertfordshire[2]	4,413	3,350	3,741	5,128

[1] Due to changes in PCT configuration Hertfordshire comprises of the following PCTs:
Post 2006 PCT changes
East and North Hertfordshire PCT; and
West Hertfordshire PCT.
Pre 2006 changes
Dacorum PCT;
Hertsmere PCT;
North Herts and Stevenage PCT;
Royston, Buntingford and Bishops Stortford PCT;
South East Hertfordshire PCT;
St Albans and Harpenden PCT;
Watford and Three Rivers PCT; and
Welwyn Hatfield PCT.

[2] Due to changes in PCT configuration West Hertfordshire comprised of the following PCTs, pre 2006 changes:
Dacorum PCT;
Hertsmere PCT;
St. Albans and Harpenden PCT; and
Watford and Three Rivers PCT.

Due to these changes it is not possible to compare the numbers of items prescribed in one year to the number in the next.

The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse's (NTA) National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects data on people in drug treatment in England.

NDTMS only records numbers of people receiving specialist prescribing for drug treatment rather than the type of drug which is prescribed. Most of those in treatment receive oral methadone but buprenorphine or other substitute opioids may also be prescribed.

The NDTMS only records data for the county of Hertfordshire, and only since 2004-05.

The number of people who received prescribing treatment for drug misuse for each of the years since 2004-05 is in the following table.

	Number
2004-05	831
2005-06	970
2006-07	1,081
2007-08	1,310

The percentages of people receiving prescribing treatment, for the age brackets as requested are as follows.

				Percentage
	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
under 18	1	1	0	0
18 to 25	28	24	22	21
26 to 40	59	62	64	62
41+	12	13	13	17

Notes:

Percentages may not always total 100 per cent. owing to rounding.

Mid Essex Hospital Trust: Accident and Emergency Departments

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average waiting time at accident and emergency departments at Mid Essex Hospital Trust hospitals was in each of the last five years. [233186]

Phil Hope: Information is not collected centrally in the format requested. Information on time spent in accident and emergency (A and E) service and E waits, which is set at 98 per cent. of patients seen, diagnosed and treated within four hours of their arrival at A and E. Data on A and E activity is collected and published quarterly as part of the Department's QMAE dataset. Latest published figures show that, for quarter one in 2008-09, performance for Mid Essex Hospital Trust was 99.1 per cent, (all types). The data for the previous five years has been set out in the following table.

Total time spent in A&E from arrival to admission, transfer or discharge, Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust, including activity at partner primary care trusts (PCTs), 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Percentage of patients who spent less than four hours in A and E
2003-04	91.2
2004-05	96.9
2005-06	98.8
2006-07	98.8
2007-08	98.2

Notes:

1. Data for 2003-04 and quarter one 2004-05 does not include activity at partner PCTs.
2. Data for quarter two, quarter three and quarter four 2004-05 and quarter one 2005-06 includes activity at partner PCT—Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT. There was no activity at Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust's partner PCTs from Q2 2005-06

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMAE.

Neurology

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the implementation of the national service framework on long-term neurological conditions; and if he will make a statement. [233184]

Ann Keen: Since publication of the national service framework (NSF) for long-term conditions in March 2005, the Department has co-ordinated a range of activities to help local health and social care organisations take forward local implementation of the NSF. This includes:

> working with key national health service, social care, voluntary and independent sector stakeholders, as well as service users and carers, to identify and address key issues in neurological services and the stakeholders' role in implementation;
>
> ensuring that other key delivery programmes, most especially the White Paper "Our Health, Our Say" and the long-term conditions strategy help deliver key NSF objectives; and
>
> work with the Care Services Improvement Partnership to promote implementation of the NSF through a co-ordinated work programme, including regional workshops, a web-based getting started pack and self-assessment tool for services.

The NSF is for implementation over 10 years and local bodies can set their own pace of change within this period, according to local priorities. However, the planning framework makes clear that the national health service and local authorities will need to demonstrate that they are making progress in planning and developing the levels of service quality described in the NSF over the course of the three year planning period (2005/08).

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS dentists there were on a *(a)* full-time equivalent and *(b)* headcount basis in (i) Peterborough, (ii) Cambridgeshire and (iii) the East of England in each of the last five years. [232361]

Ann Keen: The number of national health service dentists from 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex E of the report "NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report England: 31 March 2006". Information is available by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). Annex G of the report contains information by constituency.

This measure counted the number of NHS dentists recorded on PCT lists at 31 March each year. The information is based on the old contractual arrangements, which were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

The number of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 2008 is available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the report "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08". Information is provided by SHA and by PCT but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. The revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre website at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

Further work is planned over the next 12 months to determine whether the definition used under the new dental contractual arrangements can be applied to the years under the old contractual arrangements to produce a consistent time series.

Both sets of published figures relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information on full-time equivalent dentists are not available. However, information on dentists' average weekly hours and weekly NHS hours is available in the report "Dental Working Hours, England and Wales 2006-07 and 2007-08". This report has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre website at:

> www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalworkinghours0708

All of the aforementioned reports have been published by the Information Centre for health and social care.

NHS: Drugs

Mark Simmonds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency has received from commercial organisations on the effect of publishing the 50 most frequently notified products in its quarterly summary report for importation of unlicensed medicines; and what the reasons were for the publication of the list. [232507]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has received two representations from commercial organisations about the publication of the MHRA quarterly summary reports for importation of unlicensed medicines. One expressed commercial concerns and felt that importers may tend to prefer to import listed products at the expense of other products, and the second company commented that the information was relevant, useful and interesting.

The MHRA publishes this list in response to requests from health care professionals for information received during the current review of unlicensed medicines and to provide general information on commonly imported unlicensed products. This may encourage companies to apply for marketing authorisations and also provides transparency on the operation of the importation process.

NHS: Information Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answers of 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1990W and 6 June on NHS care records, when the registers of service were transferred to the Spine; and where they were held prior to being transferred. [232450]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Spine has had the following registers of service transferred to it:

The NHS Strategic Tracing Service (NSTS) started to transfer records to the Spine in June 2004. This system was located in an Atos Origin Datacentre in Andover. It was previously managed by the NHS Information Authority and is maintained under contract by Atos Origin; and

The Central Health Register Inquiry System (CHRIS) which was originally maintained by the Office for National Statistics on behalf of the national health service, in October 2008. A small amount of remaining information is scheduled for transfer in 2009. The system is located in Southport.

NHS: Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many part-time employees are *(a)* enrolled in the NHS pension scheme and *(b)* eligible to be enrolled in the NHS pension scheme. [230003]

Ann Keen: The latest information available for the NHS Pension Scheme England and Wales on the number of part-time members is 535,234. These data are from a special extract from the NHS Pensions mainframe as at 29 September 2005 and represents a snapshot in time. These data include employees of national health service organisations, practice staff and employees of direction bodies. As at 30 September 2005, there were 492,389 part-time staff employed by NHS organisations in England and Wales who were eligible to join the NHS pension scheme. These data do not include practice staff, as a breakdown by nature of contract is not collected, and the staff of direction bodies. As at 30 September 2005, there were 112,094 (headcount) and 72,990 (FTE) practice staff in England which includes practice nurses and around 18,000 pension scheme members in direction bodies. Data on practice staff are not available for Wales for the year ending 30 September 2005 .

Source:

NHS Pensions, the Information Centre for Health and Social Care and the Welsh Assembly Government.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many national health service staff will have received a payment from the national health service pension fund in 2008 by the end of the year. [231137]

Ann Keen: Latest available data on numbers of members of the NHS pension scheme, including pensioner numbers is available in the NHS Pension Scheme Resource Accounts 2006-07. Data is not currently available for the 2007-08 year.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 317W, which companies are providing communications services for the NHS Next Stage Review; what value of contract has been awarded to each company; and what services are being provided by each such company in assisting the review. [231659]

Ann Keen: The national health service Next Stage Review was completed on 30 June 2008 with the publication of 'High Quality Care for All'. I refer the hon. Member to my previous answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 317W, regarding the provision of these services while the review was being undertaken.

Nurses and Other Professions Review Body

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* areas of responsibility and *(b)* Government-funded budget are of the Nurses and Other Health Professions Review Body. [232044]

Ann Keen: The NHS Pay Review Body (NHSPRB), formerly known as Nurses and Other Health Professions Review Body, is responsible for making recommendations on the remuneration of all NHS staff paid under the Agenda for Change pay system (all directly employed non-medical staff with the exception of Very senior managers).

The NHSPRB is supported by the Office of Manpower Economics (OME) who provide an independent secretariat to the review body. The Department is expecting to transfer £58,650 to OME for remuneration costs of committee members in 2008-09.

Nurses: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many practice nurses there were in (a) West Chelmsford constituency and (b) the Chelmsford local authority area in (i) 1997 and (ii) 2007. [233187]

Ann Keen: Data is not collected in the format requested. Data is available for the primary care trusts (PCTs) that serve the constituency and local authority areas for 2002 and 2007 and is shown in the following table.

Practice Nurses for selected area in 2002 and 2007

		Number (headcount)
	2002	*2007*
Total for specified organisations	168	175
Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT	46	n/a
Chelmsford	67	n/a
Witham, Braintree and Halstead	55	n/a
Mid Essex PCT	n/a	175

n/a = Not applicable.

Notes:

1. Data for practice nurses is not available at parliamentary constituency or local authority area. West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency and the Chelmsford local authority area are contained within and served by the Primary Care Trusts provided here.
2. Mid Essex PCT was created on 1 October 2006 from a complete merger of Chelmsford PCT, Maldon and South Chelmsford PCT and Witham, Braintree and Halstead PCT
3. Prior to 2002 PCTs did not exist. It is not possible to map organisations back beyond this to provide a time series.

Data as at 30 September 2002 and 2007

Data Quality:

Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care General and Personal Medical Services Statistics

Obesity: Children

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many children in Hertfordshire have a body mass index which indicates obesity. [232749]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not available in the format requested.

Information on the proportion of children aged four to five years and aged 10 to 11 years that are obese in Hertfordshire local authority (LA), East and North Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) and West Hertfordshire PCT is collected through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP). The NCMP report provides high-level analysis of the prevalence of obese children, aged four to five years and aged 10 to 11 years.

This information is available in the National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results which was published on 21 February 2008. The prevalence of obese children in the Hertfordshire LA can be found in table C (pages 39-40). The prevalence of obese children in East and North Hertfordshire PCT and West Hertfordshire PCT can be found in Table A (pages 36-37). This publication has been placed in the Library.

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what accidents with home oxygen have been reported to his Department in the last 12 months. [231779]

Ann Keen: The Department does not hold this information.

Palliative Care

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what amendments there have been to the Liverpool Care Pathway since its introduction in the NHS. [231590]

Ann Keen: The Department did not develop the Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) and is not responsible for its content. The LCP was developed by the Specialist Palliative Care Team at the Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen University Hospitals NHS Trust and the Marie Curie Hospice, Liverpool. Although originally developed for the care of cancer patients in the acute environment, it has been adapted and disseminated across all care settings irrespective of diagnosis. The LCP is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

Patient Choice Schemes

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many NHS hospitals use the Appointments Line service of Choose and Book; and what assessment the Government have made of the effectiveness of the Appointments Line. [230535]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Appointments Line provides a booking service for patients in England referred via Choose and Book. This service is available for all patients who are referred via Choose and Book, where the hospital has a complaint Patient Administration System (PAS) thereby enabling a direct booking. Some 86 per cent. of hospitals are directly bookable.

The Appointments Line is assessed monthly by commissioners against a range of performance indicators including Calls answered in 30 seconds, percentage of calls terminated with engaged tone, calls resulting in complaints. The service performs well against those targets and mechanisms are in place to apply financial deductions in the event of under performance.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of the NHS Choose and Book service against its objectives; where and when the service has been implemented; what measures are in place to monitor its performance against objectives; and what plans he has for modification of the service. [230737]

Mr. Bradshaw: The objective of Choose and Book is to support referrers in offering their patients a choice of a clinically appropriate provider when referring to hospital, and to enable patients to book appointments, electronically or by telephone, at a time and date that is convenient to them.

Nationally, the Choose and Book electronic referral system has performed well since its launch in 2004. Local benchmarking suggests that when local configuration is correct Choose and Book is easy and convenient to use, and over the last 12 months the national system has been available for use over 99 per cent. of the time.

All national health service hospitals are now using Choose and Book, along with 93 per cent. of general practitioner (GP) practices in England. There are now up to 28,000 bookings taking place every day, and 107,000 referrals every week. Over 10 million referrals having been made using the system.

Choose and Book continues to become the everyday method of referral across the NHS. Around half of all GP referrals to first consultant out-patient appointments are going through Choose and Book, and the number of referrals to other services, including community based services and allied health professionals are increasing steadily.

These utilisation measures are routinely tracked through a variety of performance monitoring processes. Most importantly, feedback from patients about Choose and Book is positive.

The scope and design of future releases is informed by the results of consultation with users and other stakeholders, including patients. Following the successful delivery of Release 4.1, Choose and Book's next system upgrade, Release 4.2, is currently scheduled for mid-2009. This release will introduce new 'Finding Services Effectively' functionality, making it easier for referrers to search and select services.

The latest Choose and Book software release was deployed successfully to users on 19 October 2008. Significant enhancements were made including improvements to rejected bookings, GP work lists, reports and a new alerts page with links to system and training information. The system was also greatly streamlined—with changes to attachment descriptions, full screen displays and Directory of Service screens making the system more intuitive.

Perinatal Mortality

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding was allocated to research into stillbirth in 2007-08. [231477]

Ann Keen: The Department's Policy Research Programme[1] and the National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) spent £2.2 million[2] in 2007-08 on research related to stillbirth.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC spent £1.2 million in 2007-08 on research related to stillbirth. The MRC also funds several large cohort studies that include a stillbirth research component; and supports a large portfolio of underpinning reproductive medicine and paediatric research, much of which may be relevant to stillbirth.

The Government fund the confidential inquiry into maternal and child health (CEMACH) which undertakes a confidential enquiry into the deaths of babies between 22 weeks of gestation and 28 days old. CEMACH publishes an annual report into perinatal mortality, including stillbirth, which records progress and identifies risk factors.

Pharmacy

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will meet the Dispensing Doctors Association to discuss the Pharmacy White Paper consultations. [232243]

Phil Hope: The Pharmacy White Paper "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - delivering the future" published on 3 April 2008 set out the Government's programme for taking forward national health service pharmaceutical services. The Department held a series of well-attended national events in May 2008 to hear views on the programme and its implementation, including ideas concerning dispensing doctors. A summary report of these events has been placed in the Library and was published on the Department's website on 27 August at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_083815

In addition, the Department has also met various stakeholders, including members of the Dispensing Doctors Association (DDA), subsequent to publication to discuss areas in more detail, and would be happy to arrange further meetings with them.

We are currently consulting, as promised in the White Paper. "Pharmacy in England: Building on Strengths - delivering the future - proposals for legislative change" was published on 27 August 2008 and a copy has already been placed in the Library. The consultation ends on 20 November 2008. This consultation is also supported by national listening events, which representatives of the DDA are attending in significant numbers.

Pregnancy: Young People

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 665W, on teenage pregnancy, when the memorandum of understanding was put in place; and when the first quarterly report on progress will be made; [232366]

(2) if he will audit the range of provision of contraception offered within in each primary care trust area. [232544]

Dawn Primarolo: The memorandum of understanding between the Department and strategic health authorities (SHAs) is currently being agreed and SHAs will be asked to report progress quarterly. The first report will be received in December 2008.

Primary care trusts undertook a national baseline questionnaire of contraceptive services in 2006. The Department of Health document "Findings of the Baseline Review of Contraceptive Services" (2007) has already been placed in the Library.

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[1] Via the National Perinatal Epidemiology Unit. The total financial allocation made to the unit in 2007-08 is included.

[2] This figure does not include the cost of projects undertaken in the NHS and supported by NIHR transitional support funding. That information is not available.

Social Services

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the titles are of all internal reports his Department has produced on social care in the last six months. [226291]

Phil Hope: The Department does not routinely release briefing produced for Ministers.

Social Services: Eastbourne

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received local authority-funded long-term care services in *(a)* their own homes and *(b)* care homes in Eastbourne constituency in each year since the Fair Access to Care Services criteria were introduced. [231848]

Phil Hope: The information requested is only available for local authorities with adult social services responsibilities and not for parliamentary constituencies.

The following table shows the number of adults aged 18 and over in East Sussex county council area receiving community based services within their own home and residential care from 2003, when the Fair Access to Care Services criteria were introduced, to 2008. All figures are inclusive of Eastbourne constituency.

Community based services data for 2008 is provisional. Fully validated data will be published in February 2009.

Number of adults aged 18 and over receiving community based services and residential care in East Sussex, 2003 to 2008

Rounded number

	As at 31 March					
	2003	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Community based services¹	9,540	²9,130	9,270	9,130	9,875	³10,065
Residential care	3,785	3,660	3,630	3,390	3,475	3,550

[1] Community based services include home care, day care, meals, overnight respite (not in the client's home), short term residential care (not respite), direct payments, professional support, equipment and adaptations and other community based care provided by the council.

[2] Data on the number of people receiving community based services from 2004-05 is not comparable to previous years. In 2004-05 restated guidance was issued to exclude people receiving services from grant funded organisations who had not had a community care assessment.

[3] Provisional data.

Source:

RAP, Table P2s and SR1, Table S3

Upper Gastro-intestinal Cancer

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many upper gastro-intestinal cancer centres there are; what population is served by each; where they are located; and when each commenced admitting patients. [231151]

Ann Keen: There are currently 38 upper gastro-intestinal cancer centres serving patients in England.

The following table provides a list of the centres, the relevant cancer network and the trusts covering the centres, as at 30 October 2008.

Information on the population served by each centre and details of when each centre commenced activity is not available centrally.

Cancer network	*Centre*	*Trust*
Lancashire and South Cumbria	Preston	Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
Merseyside and Cheshire	Royal Liverpool	Royal Liverpool and Broadgreen Hospitals NHS Trust
	Aintree	Aintree University Hospitals NHS Foundation
	North East Wales	North East Wales NHS Trust
North of England	James Cook	South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust
	Newcastle/Carlisle¹	Newcastle upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust/ North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust
Humber and Yorkshire Coast	Leeds	Leeds Teaching Hospital NHS Trust
Yorkshire	Bradford	Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
	Leeds	Leeds Teaching hospitals NHS Trust
North Trent	Sheffield/ Doncaster²	Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust/ Doncaster and Bassetlaw NHS Foundation Trust
East Midlands	Derby	Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
	Leicester	University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust
	Nottingham	Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
Anglia	Norfolk and Norwich	Norfolk and Norwich university Hospitals NHS Trust
	Addenbrookes	Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Essex	Mid Essex	Mid Essex Services NHS Trust
Mount Vernon	Watford	West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust
Arden	Coventry	University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust
Pan Birmingham	University Hospital Birmingham/ Heart of England¹	University Hospital Birmingham NHS Foundation Trust/ Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust
North London	University College London Hospital	University College London Hospitals NHS Trust
South East London	Guy's and St Thomas'	Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust
South West London	Royal Marsden	Royal Marsden NHS Foundation Trust
West London	St Mary's	Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust
North East London	Royal London	Barts and the London NHS Trust
	Queen's Hospital	Barking, Havering and Redbridge Hospitals NHS Trust

Cancer network	*Centre*	*Trust*
Central South Coast	Southampton	Southampton university Hospitals NHS Trust
	Portsmouth	Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust
Thames Valley	Oxford	Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust
	Royal Berkshire	Royal Berkshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Kent and Medway	Maidstone	Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust
Surrey, West Sussex and Hampshire	Royal Surrey	Royal Surrey County Hospitals NHS Trust
Sussex	Royal Sussex County	Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust
Avon, Somerset and Wiltshire	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust	United Bristol Healthcare NHS Trust
Dorset	Bournemouth	Royal Bournemouth and Christchurch Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
Three Counties	Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust

[1] There is a single multi-disciplinary team at Newcastle but operating at the Freeman and Carlisle Hospital.

[2] There is a single multi-disciplinary team at Sheffield operating in both Sheffield and Doncaster on the basis of even flows to each site.

[3] Operating as a joint centre on the basis of a single multi-disciplinary team with even flows to each site.

TREASURY

Bank Services: Overseas Residence

Mr. Swayne: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether British citizens resident in the UK with deposits in Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander bank held in the Isle of Man will be included in his compensation scheme; and if he will make a statement. [227451]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic Authorities.

Bank Services: Small Businesses

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 877W, on banking services: small businesses, whether the definition of a small business for the purposes of a claim on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme extends to *(a)* individual company accounts and *(b)* consolidated subsidising companies. [232659]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules of the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS), including the rules which determine whether a company or other body is eligible to claim compensation under the scheme. The rules on eligibility for FSCS compensation are set out in the FSA handbook which is available on the FSA website. Guidance on eligibility for FSCS compensation is available on the FSCS website.

Banking Supervision

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will instruct the non-executive appointees to the boards of banks in receipt of funding from the public purse to enforce a carbon audit of the investments made by their banks; and if he will make it a condition of recapitalisation of banks that they minimise their investments in and loans to projects involved with high levels of greenhouse gas emissions. [227925]

Ian Pearson: As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the capitalisation scheme. The conditions attached to the Government's recapitalisation scheme were set out in detail in the Chancellor's statements of 8 and 13 October.

Banks: Iceland

Mr. MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what reports he has received on developments in Icelandic public opinion on the UK following the entry into force of the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008. [230734]

Ian Pearson: The Chancellor has been regularly updated on the situation in Iceland since the Landsbanki Freezing Order 2008 entered into force.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what briefing material his Department has circulated to hon. Members on the situation for British depositors with Icelandic-owned financial institutions; and what advice his Department has made available for hon. Members to pass on to their constituents who are such depositors. [232462]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Information for depositors is available on the Financial Services Compensation Scheme and Directgov websites. The Treasury has also worked with the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform to develop advice for business which is available on the Business Link website.

Banks: Land

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it a condition of British banks being in receipt of financial support from public funds that they permit the release of land being landbanked for early use for housebuilding. [227921]

Ian Pearson: As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme. The conditions attached to the Government's recapitalisation scheme were set out in detail in the Chancellor's statements of 8 and 13 October.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what IT projects his Department and its agencies have been undertaking have been subject to Gateway review in the last 12 months; and what the outcome of each gateway review was. [229179]

Angela Eagle: The following IT projects, owned by HMT and its agencies, have been subject to Gateway reviews:

Department	*Start Date*	*Name*
HMT	5 November 2007	HMT Group Corporate Services Programme
HM Revenue and Customs	19 November 2007	Estates Consolidation Programme
	20 November 2007	Processing Pacesetter Programme
	3 December 2007	Government Banking Procurement Project
	28 January 2008	Government Banking Programme
	28 January 2008	New Penalties Project
	3 March 2008	Customs Service Transformation Programme (CSTP)
	10 March 2008	Enterprise Infrastructure Foundation Programme
	29 April 2008	C and E Programme
HMT (OGC)	12 May 2008	Consultancy Services Framework. Now known as External Resources Framework
	12 May 2008	2011 Census Project
HM Revenue and Customs	30 June 2008	Business.gov Programme
	15 September 2008	Excise Movement and Control Systems (EMCS)
	6 October 2008	Government Banking Procurement Project
	13 October 2008	New Penalties Project

An Office of Government Commerce Gateway™ Review is conducted on a confidential basis for the SRO (Senior Responsible Owner) and ownership of the report including its associated outcome rests with the SRO. This approach promotes an open and honest exchange between the programme/project and review teams delivering maximum added value. The OGC receives copies of review reports in order to identify and disseminate generic lessons learned.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many civil servants in his Department were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229140]

Angela Eagle: Over the past 12 months, the Department has recruited a total of 19 civil servants through the fast stream. Information on the average salary is not available and would be provided only at disproportionate costs.

Economic Situation: International Co-operation

Ann Winterton: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he intends that the proposed international conference to reshape the financial world order will have on its agenda changes to the mark to market rules. [228634]

Ian Pearson: The President of the United States has invited the leaders of the Group of 20 countries to a summit on 15 November to discuss financial markets and the global economy. Further details on the agenda for the conference can be found in a statement by the White House Press Secretary on 22 October.

Financial Services: Trade Competitiveness

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to maintain London's international competitiveness in financial services. [232704]

Ian Pearson: The Government continue to work to maintain and strengthen London's position as a world-leading financial centre, by working closely with industry leaders in various fora to examine the medium to longer-term global challenges to and opportunities for the UK's financial and professional services sector.

Fuels: Prices

Mark Williams: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is planning to take to alleviate the effects of increased costs of fuel on local authority budgets. [221915]

Angela Eagle: It was in response to sharp rises in world oil prices that the Chancellor decided to postpone the increase in fuel duty that was expected to take place on 1 October.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 800W, on housing valuation, if he will place in the Library a copy of the multiple regression formula. [232860]

Mr. Timms: Multiple regression is a technique rather than a formula. There is no single multiple regression formula.

National Debt

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what objectives have been set by his Department for the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt. [231805]

Ian Pearson: The statutory functions of the Commissioners for the Reduction of the National Debt (CRND) have been carried out within the United Kingdom Debt Management Office since July 2002. The CRND's main responsibility is the investment and management of Government funds. The Commissioners' powers and functions are laid down in the various parliamentary Acts relating to each individual fund and/or the publication of accounts.

In relation to the exercise of its fund management role, the Debt Management Office/CRND has a published an objective

> "to develop and deliver its fund management responsibilities and in particular, to provide a cost-effective service for stakeholders".

Nationalisation

Paul Farrelly: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the status as public authorities for the purposes of the Human Rights Act 1998 of companies in temporary public ownership; and if he will make a statement. [229338]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* Treasury Ministers have discussions with their ministerial colleagues and a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussions.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W, on non-domestic rates: ports, whether *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation is required to reverse the backdating of business rates on ports and shipping companies. [231872]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

In relation to the businesses within ports, backdated liability has arisen because of the operation of regulation 14 of the Non-Domestic Rating (Alteration of Lists and Appeals) (England) Regulations 2005 (SI 2005/659).

This power does not give the valuation officer discretion over the effective date or the Secretary of State the power to intervene in individual cases and without an amendment to primary legislation, we are unable to amend regulation 14 in such a way that would enable the valuation officer to change the rating list entries.

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W, on non-domestic rates: ports, if he will make it his policy to reverse the backdating of taxation on ports and shipping companies. [231873]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

We do not believe it would be in the interests of fair competition or in line with the wider principles of taxation for business rates liabilities in ports to be waived. We are urgently exploring policy options for mitigating the financial impact on businesses facing immediate payment of such significant backdated liabilities.

Off Shore Banks

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's obligations are in respect of guarantees to depositors in off shore banks in *(a)* UK dependent territories, *(b)* UK overseas territories and *(c)* Crown dependencies; and if he will make a statement. [232204]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Treasury has no obligations in respect of deposits with banks in UK dependent territories, UK overseas territories or the Crown dependencies.

The Financial Services Compensation Scheme does not cover deposits with banks in UK dependent territories, UK overseas territories or the Crown dependencies. Deposits in these jurisdictions would be covered by any locally operated schemes.

Personal Savings: Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Government plan to guarantee the investments of individual savers in Icelandic banks if they are held in the subsidiary accounts of British banks based in *(a)* Guernsey and *(b)* the Isle of Man; and if he will make a statement. [228040]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man and Guernsey are a matter for the Governments of the Isle of Man and Guernsey. Deposits with Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man Deposit Compensation Scheme.

Remittances

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the Government's estimate is of personal remittances to and from the UK in each of the last 10 years. [232168]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your question asking what is the Government's estimate of personal remittances to and from the United Kingdom in each of the last ten years. (232168)

ONS does not publish separate estimates for flows of personal remittances. Estimates of personal remittance flows to and from the United Kingdom are included in the UK Balance of Payments "Pink Book", table 5.1, within the published series for other receipts of and payments by households and non-profit institutions serving households (NPISH).

There are components produced at a lower level than these published data, which broadly represent cross-border household to household transfers, and are therefore close, in concept, to personal remittances. However these estimates are highly uncertain which is why they are not published separately on a regular basis.

ONS have estimated that remittances comprise at least 75% of the series published in the Pink Book for total payments and receipts by households and NPISH. The estimates for remittances, excluding the NPISH element, for each of the ten years are in the table below. However it should be stressed that these estimates are highly uncertain.

Personal remittances to and from the UK 1998-2007

	Remittances (£ billion)	
	To the UK	*From the UK*
1998	2.3	2.3
1999	2.4	2.4
2000	2.3	2.7
2001	2.4	2.8
2002	2.4	2.9
2003	2.4	3.2
2004	2.3	3.5
2005	2.3	3.7
2006	2.4	3.9
2007	2.3	4.1

Taxation: Self-assessment

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will increase resources used to provide information to self-assessment taxpayers on the need for them to make timely tax returns; and if he will make a statement. [232508]

Mr. Timms: Information on making timely tax returns is provided to taxpayers through a number of channels including direct mail, generation of press coverage and media advertising. The effectiveness of these communications is monitored and the resource involved kept under review.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 299W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of the refurbishment was. [233405]

Mr. Khan: The cost of the refurbishment was £146,475.

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what IT projects *(a)* her Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229157]

Mr. Khan: The IT projects currently being undertaken by Communities and Local Government and its agencies are as follows:

Communities and Local Government (including regional co-ordination unit and Government offices in the regions)

Project	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated costs (£000)*
Website Rationalisation (incorporating Interlocal Rebuild project)[1]	December 2008	3,600
Fire Incident Recording System	November 2008	3,040
Data Interchange Hub Release 2	March 2009	1,273
EDRMS	November 2008	754
SAP Implementing Benefits	February 2009	364
Smarter Business Process (SAP Enhancement)	November 2008	362
Business Intelligence System Technical Upgrade	February 2009	351
PIMS HR e-Strategy Implementation	October 2008	287
Government Offices National Indicator Analysis tool—scoping	December 2008	62
Government Offices Human Resources Database—Phase 2	March 2009	241
Government Offices Online Performance Management System -Phase 2	March 2009	82
Government Offices Contacts Database	March 2009	40

Agencies of the Department

Planning Inspectorate

Project	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated costs (£000)*
Fast Track Householder Appeals—Stage 2 (Implementation)	May 2009	175
Business Continuity Planning (BCP) and	January 2009 and	[2]142
Disaster Recovery (DR)	June 2009	[2]—
Charging for Appeals	April 2009	100

QEII Conference Centre

Project	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated costs (£'000)*
Meeting Matrix	October 2008	65

[1] A project to rebuild the Info4local website was approved in November 2004 at a cost of £244,000. The project was deferred for later incorporation into the Department's Website Rationalisation Project at a final cost of £400,000 on top of the £3,600,000 included above for web rationalisation.

Note:

Estimated costs are the build costs only.

Eco-towns: Planning

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps she intends to take following the comments of Mr. Justice Collins in his ruling relating to the Bard Campaign *v.* the Secretary of State, that the Secretary of State may have disqualified herself from considering any planning applications for eco-towns because of perceived bias. [231086]

Margaret Beckett: Any planning decisions taken by the Secretary of State will be taken in line with the published guidance on planning propriety issues. We do not accept that the Secretary of State has disqualified herself from considering any planning applications for eco-towns.

Empty Property

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will take steps to mark the National Week of Action on Empty Homes. [231893]

Margaret Beckett: We shall continue to work closely with the independent Empty Homes Agency to encourage local authorities to tackle empty homes in their areas. We have introduced new powers to allow local authorities to take over the management of private sector empty homes (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) where a voluntary approach is not successful. We are supporting the Empty Homes Agency's new guidance on Empty Dwelling Management Orders, and Ministers will be providing a foreword to the guidance.

Local Authorities: Bank Services

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will place in the Library a copy of guidance issued by her Department on investments and deposits made by local authorities. [232042]

John Healey: A copy of CLG's investment guidance for local authorities has been placed in the Library.

London Thames Gateway Development Corporation

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* responsibilities are and *(b)* budget is for the (i) London Thames Gateway Development Corporation and (ii) Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation. [233262]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: The statutory purpose of the London Thames Gateway Development Corporation is to secure the regeneration of its area. The Department has allocated it a capital budget of £120 million and a revenue budget of £19 million over the three-year period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011.

The purpose of the Thurrock Thames Gateway Development Corporation is to regenerate the borough of Thurrock. The Department has allocated it with a capital budget of £90 million over the three-year period 1 April 2008 to 31 March 2011 and a revenue budget of £17.6 million over the same period.

Parish Councils

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the procedure is for a council in a village that forms part of a borough council area to apply for parish council status. [231614]

John Healey: The procedure for a village, or any other area, irrespective of whether it forms part of a borough is set out in part 4 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007. That procedure provides for local government electors for the area concerned to petition the principal council which, on receipt of a valid petition, must conduct a community governance review and decide, having regard to that review, whether or not to establish the parish.

Planning: Renewable Energy

Mr. Kemp: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will review planning policy regulations to ensure that they facilitate the Government's objectives relating to small-scale renewable energy schemes and the protection of green belt land in a consistent manner. [232496]

Margaret Beckett: In our plan-led planning system, planning applications must be determined in accordance with the statutory development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise. The regional and local plans which form the statutory development plan should be consistent with the Government's objectives relating to small-scale renewable energy schemes and protecting green belts set out in national planning policies. Our Planning Policy Statement 22 on renewable energy makes it clear that the very special circumstances required to justify the grant of planning permission for inappropriate development in a green belt may include the wider environmental benefits associated with increased production of energy from renewable sources. Planning authorities have also been advised not to reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small.

This summer's consultation on the Government's Renewable Energy Strategy (RES) has underlined the importance of a clear planning framework which provides as much certainty as possible on whether a project for renewable energy is likely to gain consent. The RES has acknowledged that with a rapidly evolving set of national policy and guidance affecting renewable energy projects, including the RES itself, it may not always be clear to local planning authorities, applicants and other users how elements of this framework come together in any given case. We have therefore said we will ensure our planning policies for renewable energy are updated quickly to reflect the new RES when in place next year.

Polytunnels: Planning Permission

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether polytunnels are considered temporary or permanent structures under the planning regime. [232694]

Margaret Beckett: Whether a structure is temporary or permanent will be for the local planning authority to determine. This will ultimately be a matter of fact and degree based on a number of factors, for example, its use, permanence and size.

More generally, the status of polytunnels within the planning system was addressed in a letter the chief planner in Communities and Local Government sent to all local planning authorities on the issue of polytunnels on 25 July 2007. This is available at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/planningandbuilding/polytunnels

Regional Planning and Development

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government with reference to her Department's consultation on the review of sub-national economic development and regeneration, what the role of district councils in the regional planning process is; and if she will make a statement. [231581]

Margaret Beckett: The consultation on the review of sub national economic development and regeneration proposed that local authorities form a Leaders' Forum to work with the Regional Development Agency on regional strategy and that such a body should be representative for all local authorities in the respective region, including district councils. We intend to publish our response to that consultation shortly.

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department's area-based initiatives are; and what budget has been established for each. [232680]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Department's area-based initiative programmes and their current budgets are set out in the following table.

These figures do not take account of the budgetary changes to be effected at the winter supplementary estimates which are due to be reported to the House and published by mid-November this year.

Programme	*Budget at main estimates 2008-09 (£ million)*
Area-based Grants	637.5
Market Renewal Pathfinders	381.0
Growth Areas	258.0
New Deal for Communities	245.6
Thames Gateway	177.0
Coalfields Regeneration Trusts	17.7

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects her Department funds through *(a)* the Government Offices for the Regions and *(b)* regional development agencies; and what the budget for each project for 2008-09 is. [233330]

Mr. Khan: The European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) is directly administered by the Government offices and has a budget of £10.3 million at the main estimate 2008-09. This figure does not take account of budgetary changes to be effected at the winter supplementary estimates which are due to be published later this month.

The ERDF budget is to cover possible insolvencies, irregularities and audit exposures in the 2000-06 programmes. Nothing has been written off to date.

For the regional development agencies, I refer the hon. Member to the answer that I gave her on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 345-46W.

Regional Planning and Development: Greenbelt

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which regional spatial strategies proposed the weakening of green belt protection in specific locations in the most recent drafts submitted to her Department. [230304]

Margaret Beckett: Regional spatial strategies (RSS) do not express any planning policies which refer to specific sites, they identify broad locations. Emerging RSSs are recommending green belt reviews as follows:

North East

Policy 9.5 ensures that the green belt continues to safeguard the countryside from encroachment and check the unrestricted sprawl of Tyne and Wear. The supporting text notes that the general extent of the region's green belt should be maintained, rather than weakened, with detail boundaries to be defined in local development frameworks.

North West

Policy RDF4 indicates that there is no need for any exceptional substantial strategic change to the green belt before 2021 in Warrington and 2011 in the rest of the region. After 2011 there will be presumption against such change but strategic studies could indicate the need for change and indicate options for implementation, which would be fed into review of RSS.

Policy RDF4 does allow for potential changes to the green belt of a more localised and detailed nature to be addressed through LDF process but only with agreement of the regional planning body. The policy confers such agreement on potential green belt changes associated with expansion of Manchester and Liverpool airports and a multi-model freight proposal at Newton le Willows.

Yorkshire and Humber

RSS policy YH9 confirms that the extent of green belt should not change, but that green belt round York needs defining. Specific mention is also made of a potential need for strategic review of the West Yorkshire green belt, which extends into Leeds, Wakefield, Calderdale and Kirklees.

West Midlands

The west midlands regional spatial strategy Phase 2 revision Preferred Option identifies the need for the release of green belt round Coventry and Redditch which will be considered by an independent panel at the Examination in Public next year.

East Midlands

In their report on the Draft East Midlands RSS the independent panel recommended that the Nottingham-Derby green belt

> "should be recast so as to provide a separation between Nottingham and Derby without surrounding the city of Nottingham."

In the Proposed Changes, issued for consultation in July 2008, the Secretary of State disagreed with the panel's recommendation. Instead the principle of Nottingham-Derby green belt was reaffirmed, and it was not accepted that sufficient evidence had been advanced to justify the wholesale deletion of the green belt elsewhere as recommended by the panel.

East of England

The published RSS, issued in may, says there should be a local review of green belt in Broxbourne, and that strategic reviews of green belt boundaries to meet regional development needs are needed in:

Stevenage, including land in North Hertfordshire;

Hemel Hempstead, involving land in Dacorum and probably St. Albans District;

Harlow, including land in East Hertfordshire and Epping Forest;

Welwyn/Hatfield, potentially including land in St Albans District; and

Luton/ Dunstable/Houghton Regis and Leighton Linslade.

South East

The current regional plan (2001) does not seek to review any green belt. The Government's Proposed Changes to its draft replacement (the South East Plan) include proposals for selective green belt release at Oxford and Guildford, and possibly south of Woking. Where reviews result in the loss of green belt land the draft states that a broader review should be considered to determine whether additional land should be designated. The Secretary of State is working to finalise the plan by early next year.

South West

Following consideration of the recommendations of the independent panel that considered the draft RSS, the Secretary of State published her proposed changes to the RSS in July 2008. These include proposals to revise the general extent of the Bristol and Bath, Gloucester and Cheltenham and South East Dorset green belts to accommodate urban extensions as part of the most sustainable solution for delivering housing and other development. Changes are also proposed to the general extent of the Bristol and Bath green belt to provide for regionally significant development at Bristol International airport and the Port of Bristol, and to the south-east Dorset green belt to provide for development at Bournemouth airport. The Proposed Changes are currently the subject of public consultation; which ends on 24 October 2008.

London

The published London Plan, February 2008 (consolidated with alterations since 2004), does not propose any changes to the London green belt.

Voluntary Organisations: Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department and its agencies have given to *(a)* the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, *(b)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and *(c)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in the last 24 months. [233232]

Mr. Khan: The Department paid £3,000 to the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations in February 2007.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Support

Tony Lloyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the transfer of Child Support Agency cases to the 2003 maintenance scheme; and if he will make a statement. [227686]

Kitty Ussher: The new Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act sets out the new arrangements for child maintenance, driven by our commitment to extend choice and tackle child poverty.

We expect the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme to be introduced in 2011 and then all clients will be able to choose to either apply to the new gross income scheme or make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years. We will therefore not be transferring cases from the original child maintenance scheme to the current scheme introduced by the reforms in 2003.

Instead from 27 October 2008 we will extend choice to all parents to allow them to agree appropriate arrangements between themselves including moving into voluntary maintenance arrangements.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230950]

James Purnell: The Secretary of State has not undertaken any personal training courses at public expense since his appointment.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [222131]

James Purnell: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W.

Fuel Poverty: York

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* pensioner households he estimates are in fuel poverty in York; how many there were in York in 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [230255]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent year for which sub-national estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset, available online at

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/.

In 2003, there were around 4,600 households in the local authority of York living in fuel poverty (6 per cent. of all households). The data are not split by type of household.

There is no consistent source of data available for sub-regional estimates of fuel poverty for 1996-97.

Incapacity Benefit: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working-age population in West Chelmsford constituency received incapacity benefit in *(a)* June 2001, *(b)* May 2005 and *(c)* the latest period for which figures are available. [233185]

Jonathan Shaw: I will let the hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Maternity Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the total monetary value was of unprocessed maternity allowance claims at the end of each quarter in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [230289]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Pension Credit

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK received pension credit in each year since its inception. [231419]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following tables.

Number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Jarrow, South Tyneside, the North East and Great Britain—2003-08

	Jarrow constituency		*South Tyneside local authority*	
	Household recipients	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
November 2003	4,640	5,630	9,060	10,890
February 2004	4,980	6,070	9,660	11,670
February 2005	5,760	7,100	11,150	13,600
February 2006	5,870	7,270	11,380	13,930
February 2007	5,880	7,260	11,350	13,890
February 2008	5,890	7,270	11,200	13,700

	North East (GOR)		*Great Britain*	
	Household recipients	*Individual beneficiaries*	*Household recipients*	*Individual beneficiaries*
November 2003	124,280	150,050	2,084,700	2,495,240
February 2004	135,940	165,540	2,282,290	2,754,900
February 2005	155,420	190,750	2,654,670	3,227,590
February 2006	157,420	193,740	2,709,220	3,305,120
February 2007	157,600	194,220	2,730,940	3,335,010
February 2008	156,460	192,840	2,723,140	3,324,230

Notes:
1. Case loads are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf of a household.
3. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the average take-up rate of pension credit was by those over 70 years old in the latest period for which figures are available; [231823]

(2) what the average take-up rate of pension credit was by those between the ages of 65 and 70 years in the latest period for which figures are available; [231824]

(3) what proportion of pensioners eligible for means tested benefit support did not claim their full entitlement in each of the last 10 years. [231837]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The latest estimates of take-up of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". Earlier reports with estimates of take-up on income related benefits are available from 1990 onwards.

Pension credit take-up estimates are not available by age group.

It is not possible to construct a robust estimate of the proportion of pensioners eligible but not receiving all their possible means tested benefit support.

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedure is followed when a claimant presents him or herself at a *(a)* personal capacity assessment and *(b)* work capability assessment but is not in a fit state to be assessed due to intoxication. [231889]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Where a claimant is not in a fit state to be assessed for a personal capability assessment or a work capability assessment the relevant papers are returned to Jobcentre Plus by Medical Services to decide whether benefit is to be disallowed or whether a further assessment is to be arranged. Decisions are made taking into account the medical condition of the claimant and any other relevant factors. Where benefit is disallowed the claimant can request a reconsideration of the decision or appeal to an independent tribunal.

Working Tax Credit

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to increase the uptake of the child-care element of working tax credit. [232164]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

The application and award process for the child care element is integrated with the rest of the tax credits system. This makes it as simple as possible for families who need help with their child care costs to claim and receive support. The child care element is promoted as part of the tax credits system, which has a higher level of take-up than any previous system of income-related financial support.

One example of steps to increase take-up of tax credits is the initiative, announced in Budget 2008, to offer tax credits advice to families with young children through children's centres.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by the Government Equalities Office in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [231427]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office has lost one laptop. The laptop was new and unused and therefore did not contain any data. No other losses of data have been reported.

Females: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many women were victims of *(a)* rape, *(b)* domestic violence, *(c)* forced marriage, *(d)* sexual exploitation and *(e)* trafficking in each of the last three years, broken down by (i) parliamentary constituency and (ii) police force area. [227211]

Maria Eagle: Data on these crimes are collected in a number of ways. Where appropriate the Government do hold data on the number of recorded offences made to the police by women. However, these data are not broken down by parliamentary constituency.

Rape:

The following table provides a breakdown by police force area for recorded offences of rape of a female for the last three years:

Recorded offences of rape of a female by police force area

	Number of offences		
Police force area	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	295	393	352
Bedfordshire	188	141	106
British Transport Police	17	16	14
Cambridgeshire	193	193	198
Cheshire	165	150	140
Cleveland	158	125	130
Cumbria	73	63	78
Derbyshire	253	253	217
Devon and Cornwall	361	355	360
Dorset	166	115	192
Durham	129	76	117
Dyfed-Powys	79	92	66
Essex	352	324	264
Gloucestershire	145	150	130
Greater Manchester	769	767	712
Gwent	112	132	164
Hampshire	618	592	549
Hertfordshire	197	179	163
Humberside	323	264	237
Kent	413	368	379
Lancashire	299	257	232
Leicestershire	287	275	315
Lincolnshire	169	147	154
London, City of	5	8	3
Merseyside	356	274	231
Metropolitan Police	2,249	2,144	1,792
Norfolk	209	147	128
Northamptonshire	152	147	138
Northumbria	325	307	232
North Wales	156	99	142
North Yorkshire	134	128	121
Nottinghamshire	236	223	209
South Wales	193	240	232
South Yorkshire	294	241	219
Staffordshire	267	265	224
Suffolk	192	161	151
Surrey	135	134	144
Sussex	399	413	293
Thames Valley	425	411	356
Warwickshire	75	93	96
West Mercia	212	208	229
West Midlands	856	834	748
West Yorkshire	558	579	563
Wiltshire	138	141	128
England and Wales	13,327	12,624	11,648

Domestic violence:

The Government collect domestic violence data purely for police performance measurements purposes. Published domestic violence arrest rates for 2006-07 and 2005-06 by police force area can be found at

http://police.homeoffice.gov.uk/performance-and-measurement/performance-assessment/.

The domestic violence figures for 2007-08 by police force area will be published shortly on the Home Office website, as part of the release of information relating to police performance 2007-08.

Forced marriage:

The forced marriage unit have been keeping statistics on reportings of forced marriage since January 2008. It is not possible to provide a breakdown by police force area for this crime. Between January and September 2008 the forced marriage unit has handled 1,180 incidents of forced marriage or potential forced marriage.

Sexual exploitation and trafficking:

The Government do not hold figures on how many women were the victims of sexual exploitation or trafficking. The Government have delivered two national enforcement campaigns against trafficking for sexual exploitation, involving all 55 police forces. During Operation Pentameter 1, 88 victims of trafficking were recovered, and during Operation Pentameter 2, this number was doubled to 167 (13 of whom were children).

Working Mothers

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many women with a child under the age of five returned to work in each month in the last two years. [228906]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many women with a child under the age of five have returned to work in each month in the last two years. (228906)

Statistics on women who have returned to work in each month is not available. The Labour Force Survey (LFS), however, does collect data on employment circumstances twelve months ago for those aged 16 and over.

It is estimated that in April - June 2008, 209 thousand women aged 16 and over in employment with a child aged under 5 were not in employment twelve months previously.

The estimate is derived from the LFS using the latest data available (April-June 2008). As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. In sampling error terms the above estimate is considered to be reasonably precise as the coefficient of variation (CV) lies between 5 and 10 per cent. The CV indicates the quality of the estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality.

The estimates in the tables are derived from the LFS microdata weighted to estimates published in 2007. They are not entirely consistent with figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release, which are weighted using more up to date population estimates.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Apprentices

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the number of new apprenticeships that will need to be created in each of the next five years in order to reach the target of ensuring that an apprenticeship place is available for all young people by 2013; and if he will make a statement. [232016]

Mr. Simon: Information on apprenticeships starts are due to be made available next month through the Annual Statement of Priorities published by the Learning and Skills Council. This will include latest estimates of the actual starts for the 2007/08 academic year, and proposals for delivery during 2008/09, 2009/10 and 2010/11. Resources have not yet been made available beyond that period.

World-class Apprenticeships, published earlier this year, confirmed our commitment to making Apprenticeships a high quality option for both young people and adults and set out steps to increase the numbers of people successfully completing an Apprenticeship. In the summer, we published an Apprenticeships Draft Bill to drive and help sustain improvements in the quality of the programme. The first national vacancy matching service for potential apprentices and employers will begin to become operational by the end of this year and in April 2009 the new National Apprenticeship Service with its dedicated field force will be fully established to lead the expansion and improvement of the apprenticeship programme. This focus on continuous improvement will be complemented by an increase in Apprenticeships funding to over £1.1 billion by 2010-11.

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department and each of its predecessors spent on apprenticeship schemes in each year since 1997. [232019]

Mr. Simon: Figures showing expenditure for 1997-98 to 2000-01 and for 2001-02 to 2007-08 appear in the following tables.

In the period from 1997-98 to 2000-01 apprenticeships were funded through training and enterprise councils. For this period, figures are available for overall work-based training for young people budget expenditure only, including: Advanced Apprenticeships (formerly Advanced Modern Apprenticeships) at Level 3; Apprenticeships (formerly Foundation Modern Apprenticeships) at Level 2; NVQ Learning (formerly Other Training); and Entry to Employment.

From 2001-02 to date apprenticeships have been funded and delivered by the Learning and Skills Council.

Apprenticeship Expenditure 2001-02 to 2007-08

	£ million
2001-02	628
2002-03	743
2003-04	778
2004-05	858
2005-06	824
2006-07	805
2007-08	833

Sources:
LSC Annual Report and Accounts

Work-based training for young people[1] Expenditure 1997-98 to 2000-01

	£ million
1997-98	740
1998-99	712
1999-2000	800
2000-01	837

[1] Work-based Training for Young People includes: Advanced Apprenticeships (formerly Advanced Modern Apprenticeships) at Level 3; Apprenticeships (formerly Foundation Modern Apprenticeships) at Level 2; NVQ Learning (formerly Other Training); and Entry to Employment.

Source:
1997-98: DFEE Departmental Report
1998-99 to 2000-01: DFES Departmental Reports

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on apprenticeships in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [232390]

Mr. Simon: The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) publish details of the total spend on Apprenticeships in the LSC's annual report and accounts. The total spend in the most recent financial year and the previous five years broken down by budget block are provided in the following table.

Analysis of apprenticeship expenditure by budget block

£000

	2007-08	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Grant letter block A—participation						
Youth participation						
16 to 18 apprenticeships	603,524	587,732	592,484	615,001	565,260	532,052
Total youth participation	603,524	587,732	592,484	615,001	565,260	532,052
Employer responsive						
19+ apprenticeships	223,175	216,884	232,157	243,162	212,807	211,112
25+ apprenticeships	5,719	0	0	0	0	0
Total employer responsive	228,894	216,884	232,157	243,162	212,807	211,112
Total apprenticeships	832,418	804,616	824,641	858,163	778,067	743,164

Source:
LSC Statutory accounts

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230198]

Mr. Simon: The Department was formed on 28 June 2007. The Department has three categories of misconduct that could result in disciplinary sanctions being applied:

Category	*Offence*	*Sanction*
Minor misconduct	Behaviour that is unacceptable but not serious enough to fall into other categories	Oral or written warning
Serious misconduct	Behaviour that damages the relationship between the individual and their employer	Range of measures from written warning to removal from a specific post
Gross misconduct	Behaviour that so damages the relationship it would normally be incompatible with continued employment	Dismissal

From the 28 June 2007 to date, there have been no disciplinary offences in any category.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232733]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created by Machinery of Government Changes at the end of June 2007. Since that date, DIUS has not had any new contingent liabilities. The Department's Resource Accounts were laid before the House on 21 July 2008 disclosing the latest position on contingent liabilities for the DIUS Department. Prior to this date, contingent liabilities were notified to Parliament by returns submitted by our predecessor Departments—the Department for Education and Skills (now the Department for Children, Schools and Families) and the Department of Trade and Industry (now the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform), who would hold details of the dates these were laid.

Details of contingent liabilities relating to the Department's non-departmental public bodies will be similarly published in their annual resource accounts.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his

Department spent on external training courses for departmental staff in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230510]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of machinery of government changes in June 2007. Information on how much was spent on external training courses prior to this date is not held by the Department. In 2007-08 the Department spent £446,000 on external training providers. These providers included:

2gc Active Management Limited
Aksaa Ltd.
Angela Argenzio
Ask Europe Plc
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners UK Chapter
CET Rivington
Campaign For Learning
Central Office Of Information
Centre For Public Policy Seminar
Church House Conference Centre Limited
CIMA
Claire Gonnet
Communicaid Group Limited
East Of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
England Athletics
Happy Computers
Hay Group
Hemsley Fraser Group Ltd.
HMRC
Integral Human Resource Cons Ltd.
Julie Allan Ltd.
Leadership Skills Training Ltd.
LSE
M D P Limited
Marketforce Communications Limited
Mercure St. Pauls Hotel
National Centre For Social Research
National School For Government
Operational Research Society
Parity Training Ltd.
PTS Consortium
Rachel Frost Ltd.
Sheffield Hallam University
Society For Editors
SPSS (UK) Ltd.
St. Marys Church A/C
TFPL Ltd.
The City Lit
The Higher Education Academy
The Open University
The RSS PDC
The School Of Coaching
The University of Essex
The University of Sheffield
Transmedia Communications Limited
University of Durham
University of Manchester
University of Southampton
University of Warwick
UPH
Verve Venues
Voluntary Action Sheffield
Walking With Leaders Ltd.
Warwick University Training Ltd.
Westminster Explained
Whitehall and Industry Group

The National Weights and Measures Laboratory (NWML) spent the following on external training courses:

	Spent on external training courses (£)
2005-06	22,000.00
2006-07	20,000.00
2007-08	51,000.00

The following external training providers were used:

BSI British Standards Institution
Business Training Direct
Capital Quality Ltd.
CIPFA
Ellis Ford Associates
Environment Agency
ERA Technology Ltd.
Fire Safety Training Limited
Insight Consulting
Learning Tree International
Legal Metrology Consultancy Service
Managing for Quality Limited
Marketforce Communications Ltd.
Mentor FLT Training Ltd.
Muirland Services Limited
The Murray School of Cookery
National School of Government
National Physical Laboratory
PG Personnel and IT Training
PTS Consortium
Reed Learning Plc
Richmond A&C College
RRC Business Training
Sapphire Systems plc
St. John Ambulance
Thomson Subscriptions
Tower Software UK Ltd.
Trading Standards Institute
Trading Standards South East Ltd.
UK Weighing Federation
VAT Liaison
West Sussex county council

The UK Intellectual Property Office (UKIPO) spent the following on external training courses (figures rounded to nearest £1,000):

	Spent on external training courses (£)
2005-06	453,000
2006-07	487,000
2007-08	538,000

Figures include amounts paid in respect of training materials and external training venues.

The following external training providers were used:

Activity Information Management Ltd.
Advanced Workplace Associates
Anti-Counterfeiting Group
Ark Conferences Ltd.
Aston University
Barefoot Ceramics Ltd.
Bespoke Speechwriting Services Ltd.
British Institute of Facilities Management Ltd.
British Red Cross
British Standards Institution
Bryan Boon Management Training
Business in the Community
Business Language Services Ltd.
Business Systems Group
Butler Direct Ltd.
C5
Capita Business Services Ltd.
Cardiff Council
Cardiff University
CEDR
Certitec Ltd.
City and Guilds Institute
Coleg Gwent
Common Purpose UK
Computeraid Ltd.
CQ Consultancy
Croydon Coaches Ltd.
Dearden Studios
Department For Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Development Partnership
Dyslexia Action
E Academy Ltd.
Ecom Learning Solutions Ltd.
ECTA 2008
Elliott Training Ltd.
EMC Computer Systems (UK) Ltd.
Enterprise North East Trust
European Patent Office
F1 Computing Systems Ltd.
First Europe Ltd.
GBdirect
Get Out Go Country
GovNet Communications
Harvard Business School
Hawksmere Ltd.
Hyatt Regency Birmingham
Ideafreaks Ltd.
Ilex Tutorial College Ltd.
ILX Group plc
Impact Factory Training
Informa (UK) Ltd.
Institute of Welsh Affairs
Intellectual Property Institute
Ivy Learning Services Ltd.
JB International Consultants Ltd.
Key Consultancy Ltd.
Lancashire Police Authority
Learning Tree International Ltd.
Lester Hotels (Usk) Ltd. T/As Cwrt Bleddyn Hotel and Spa
LogicaCMG UK Ltd.
LRQA Limited
MEGA International Ltd.
Mitie Facilities Services Ltd.
Newport City Council
Noble Training Solutions
Now You're Talking Business
Now-C-Change
Open University
ORC International Ltd.
P Starr
PA Promotions Ltd.
Palladium Training and Consultancy
Parity Training Ltd.
Penna plc
Perpetual Solutions
Personnel and Personal Training Services Ltd.
Posturite (UK) Ltd.
Prince's Trust
Public Service Partnership Ltd.
QA-IQ Ltd.
Quadrilect Ltd.
RADA Enterprise
RISC
Roffey Park Institute Ltd.
S Smart T/A Smart Move
Saville Audio Visual
Siemens Enterprise Communications Ltd.
Skillpath Seminars
Spearhead Training Group
SQS Group Ltd.
Stanton Marris
Synergy TS Ltd.
Ten Alps Communications Ltd.
TFPL Ltd.
Theatre and Ltd.
Thomas Carroll Management Services Ltd.
Torfaen County Borough Council
Trading Standards Institute
TSL Education Ltd.
UNICO Commercial Projects Ltd.
University of Glamorgan
University of Wales Newport
Veolia Transport Cymru T/As Bebb Travel Plc
Verhoef Training Ltd.
Welsh Assembly Government
Whitehall and Industry Group
World Trade Group Limited

External training providers aforementioned include those suppliers external to the government body concerned but not necessarily external to Government itself.

Gamburtsev Mountains: Research

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* support and *(b)* funding the Government has provided for the probe of the Gamburtsev sub-glacial mountains. [232688]

Mr. Lammy: The Antarctica Gamburtsev Province Project (AGAP) is a flagship International Polar Year (IPY) project and involves a research consortium of six nations, including the UK. The British Antarctic Survey (BAS), a component research institute of the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) which is funded through the Science and Research Budget, is playing a leading role in AGAP and providing the UK's contribution. The principal objective of the project is to undertake the first airborne geophysical survey of the Gamburtsev subglacial mountains in east Antarctica.

(a) During the 2008-09 season, BAS is providing a team of 10 scientists, engineers and support crew comprising 16 per cent. of the AGAP staff in Antarctica. Two of the BAS aircraft will also support the project, flying 450 aircraft hours.

(b) In addition, BAS has allocated £250,000 from its core budget to pay for flight testing, specialist equipment, field support and the post-survey data analysis over the next three years, so as to enable AGAP to go ahead.

BAS has also assisted with international technology transfer for AGAP and provided US science collaborators with the engineering expertise needed to develop the suite of airborne survey instrumentation being used on their aircraft.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much funding *(a)* his Department and its predecessor and *(b)* his Department's agencies have given to (i) Manchester is my Planet and (ii) Manchester: Knowledge Capital in the last 24 months. [233231]

Mr. Simon: The Department and its predecessors and agencies have not given any funding to (i) Manchester is my Planet and (ii) Manchester: Knowledge Capital in the last 24 months.

Higher Education: Admissions

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of 17 to 20 year olds with *(a)* A levels, *(b)* ACVEs, *(c)* BTEC Level 3, *(d)* other vocational Level 3 qualifications and *(e)* advanced apprenticeships entered (i) part-time first degrees and (ii) part-time other undergraduate qualifications in the most recent year for which figures are available. [232402]

Mr. Simon: The proportion of pupils who gained one or more GCE A-levels in 2003/04, who entered a part-time first degree course at a UK higher education institution aged 18 in 2004/05 or aged 19 in 2005/06, was 0.9 per cent. The proportion who entered a part-time other undergraduate course was 0.6 per cent. In total, 1.5 per cent. entered part-time undergraduate courses.

The proportion of pupils who gained one or more VCE A-levels in 2003/04, who entered a part-time first degree course at a UK higher education institution aged 18 in 2004/05 or aged 19 in 2005/06, was 1.0 per cent. The proportion who entered a part-time other undergraduate course was 0.8 per cent. In total, 1.9 per cent. entered part time undergraduate courses.

Information is not held centrally on the proportion of pupils with BTEC Level 3, vocational qualifications other than VCE A-levels, or Advanced Apprenticeships, who have entered higher education. The data required to determine progression rates to higher education by age 20 are not currently held by DIUS.

Note:

Due to rounding, components may not sum to totals.

Source:

For figures: Linked NPD dataset.

Higher Education: Business

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the overall level of co-funding by *(a)* employers and *(b)* individuals for part-time undergraduate qualifications in relation to *(a)* first degrees and *(b)* other undergraduate qualifications. [232399]

Mr. Lammy: A 2004 study for the former DFES looked at various sources contributing to how part-time HE students' fees were paid. It estimated that 36 per cent. of all part-time students had the whole fee paid by their employer. The remainder paid their fees themselves, or with help from family and friends, financial assistance schemes, employers or other sources. This report is available at:

http://www.dfes.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/RR600.pdf.

A smaller 2006 study for universities UK found that three in five part-time students paid for some of the fees themselves, with 35 per cent. getting financial support from their employer. This is available at

http://www.universitiesuk.ac.uk/Publications/Bookshop/Documents/parttime_strand3.pdf

The Government are supporting a new form of flexible higher education co-funded by employers, and has set the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) a target of supporting 5,000 new co-funded entrants in 2008-09. To date, HEFCE has agreed proposals to deliver around 8,000 places for 2008-09.

Higher Education: Gifts and Endowments

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information he holds on the *(a)* value and *(b)* change in value of university endowments in each of the last five years, broken down by *(a)* donations, *(b)* surplus transfers, *(c)* match funding, *(d)* realised asset sales and *(e)* unrealised capital gains. [232614]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to answer this question precisely from the data which are currently collected centrally. The following table sets out the information we hold on the overall income English higher education institutions have generated in each of the last five years from endowments. In August, we launched a £200 million matched funding scheme over three years to promote more philanthropic donations to higher education.

We shall be working closely with institutions and discussing what data should be captured in future to enable us to quantify progress being made in diversifying the range of funding streams available to higher education providers.

Total level of income from endowments for English Higher Education Institutions

	£ million
2002-03	192
2003-04	197
2004-05	254
2005-06	289
2007-08	326

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills following the conclusions of the Wakeham review of Physics, which subject area will be the next to be covered in the series of reviews into the health of key research disciplines. [232267]

Mr. Lammy: The subject area for the next health of disciplines review will be finalised by Research Councils UK (RCUK) following a 'lessons-learnt' exercise on the Physics review, which is currently being conducted. I understand that RCUK expect to announce confirmation of the timing and topic of the next health of disciplines review in spring 2009.

Learning and Skills Councils

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the *(a)* office locations and *(b)* 2009-10 budgets, of each of the regional councils of the Learning and Skills Council are. [232805]

Mr. Simon: The office locations of the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) national office and regional councils are set out in the following table. The total budget for the LSC is set out in the Secretary of State's annual Grant Letter. The budget for 2008-09 is £11.590 billion. The 2009-10 budget will be allocated in the 2009-10 Grant Letter shortly. The latest published information about regional programme expenditure was set out in the LSC's annual report and accounts for 2007-08 and is provided in the table:

Office	*Location*	*2007-08 Regional programme spend (£000)*
National office	Coventry and London	
East of England	Ipswich	1,068,596
East midlands	Leicester	930,280
Greater London	London	1,857,877
North-east	Gateshead	666,993
North-west	Manchester	1,577,542
South-east	Brighton and Reading	1,660,131
South-west	Bristol	1,038,498
West midlands	Birmingham	1,331,930
Yorkshire and the Humber	Bradford	1,097,161

Physics: Higher Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Huntingdon of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 551-2W, on physics: higher education, what the figures provided in the answer would be if expressed in real terms in 2008-09 prices. [232293]

Mr. Lammy: The response given to the hon. Member for Huntingdon (Mr. Djanogly) on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 551-52W, provided figures for quality related research funding for physics paid by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE). These figures, re-based to 2008-09 values, are shown in the following table:

Academic year	*£ million*
1998-99	44.7
1999-2000	47.4
2000-01	47.5
2001-02	46.5
2002-03	45.8
2003-04	51.4
2004-05	53.0
2005-06	60.9
2006-07	63.8
2007-08	65.0
2008-09	63.5

Research Council expenditure in university physics departments—rebased to 2008-09 values—is as follows:

	£ million
2001/02	369.11
2002/03	376.80
2003/04	395.33
2004/05	447.88
2005/06	463.41
2006/07	470.38

All figures have been converted to real 2008/09 terms using the HM Treasury GDP deflator. The GDP deflator for financial year 2008/09 is not yet known so the official estimate from the HM Treasury Budget report 2008 has been used.

Plain English

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230605]

Mr. Simon: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was created as a result of Machinery of Government changes in June 2007. Information on how much has been spent by the Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year prior to this date is not held by the Department.

Our financial records indicate that the Department did not spend any money in 2007-08 on Pain English Campaign training courses for its staff.

Research

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what targets his Department has set to *(a)* improve the international performance of the UK research base and *(b)* increase the overall innovation performance of the UK economy. [232397]

Mr. Lammy: The Government published the delivery agreement for its public service agreement for world class science and innovation alongside the comprehensive spending review in 2007. This sets out the Government's objectives over the three year period from 2008-09 to 2010-11. Alongside other indicators by which progress will be measured, the public service agreement includes ambitions to maintain and improve *(a)* the percentage share of UK citations in leading scientific journals; and *(b)* the percentage of UK businesses with 10 or more employees that are innovation active.

Science and Innovation Framework

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the annual review on the Science and Innovation Framework will be published. [232261]

Mr. Lammy: The fourth annual report on the 10-year Science and Innovation Investment Framework will be published later in the year alongside the first Annual Innovation Report.

Students: Loans

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in *(a)* West Chelmsford constituency and *(b) the* Chelmsford local authority area are repaying student loans. [233188]

Mr. Lammy: Reliable information on repayments made by borrowers is not available at the level requested. The repayment of income contingent student loans begins from the April after a student graduates or leaves full-time study and earns over £15,000 a year. Repayments are made through the UK tax system either by employers through the PAYE system or through the self assessment returns at 9 per cent. of income above the threshold. Borrowers with the older mortgage style loans make repayments through agreed monthly direct debits when income is above 8 per cent. of average national average earnings (£25,936 in 2008-09).

Ufl: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on Ufi and learndirect in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [232389]

Mr. Simon: The expenditure of Ufi/learndirect from the direct grant it receives from the Department through the Learning and Skills Council is set out in the following table.

£000

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Ufi / Leardirect Participation	—	—	—	189,834	129,232	100,154
Ufi/Leardirect Advice Marketing and Infrastructure	—	—	—	19,987	41,444	55,451
Total	113,494	192,090	159,735	209,821	170,676	155,605

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the £400 million to be invested in low-carbon technologies will be allocated to projects and initiatives in Scotland in the period 2008 to 2011. [229989]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) has a budget of £400 million on the 2008-11 spending round. The capital funding will generally be allocated to the best proposals on an open call basis, so the exact proportion that is invested in Scotland will depend on the nature of applications which are received.

Many, although not all, ETF schemes are open to Scottish applicants, including the Low Carbon Buildings Programme, the Marine Renewables Deployment Fund, the Hydrogen Fuel Cells and Carbon Abatement Technologies Demonstration Programme, the Biomass Capital Grants Scheme, and the Offshore Wind Capital Grants scheme.

For areas of ETF activity where responsibility is devolved, which includes bio-energy, anaerobic digestion, and Energy Saving Trust and Carbon Trust activities, schemes are restricted to activities in England. The Carbon Trust and the Energy Saving Trust have separate funding arrangements with devolved Administrations.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many of his Department's staff have been *(a)* redeployed to his Department and *(b)* newly recruited; [230620]

(2) what the staffing level is of his Department in its first year. [230618]

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) how many staff are employed by his Department *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis and *(b)* on a headcount basis; [229119]

(2) how many staff in his Department were previously employed by *(a)* the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, *(b)* the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and *(c)* other Government departments on (i) a full-time equivalent and (ii) a headcount basis. [229121]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but the Department of Energy and Climate Change will comprise roughly 900 posts, approximately 500 from BERR and 400 from DEFRA. Once the detail has been agreed, the information on numbers of posts will be a matter of public record.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008-2011. [228658]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Department of Energy and Climate Change has yet to agree funding for the period 2008-11. Discussions are under way with the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, to determine what funding for non-departmental public bodies will transfer to the new Department. These discussions are expected to be completed in time for reflection in the spring Supplementary Estimates.

Departmental Public Bodies

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for which *(a)* regulators, *(b)* inspectorates, *(c)* executive agencies, *(d)* non-departmental public bodies and *(e)* public corporations his Department (i) has responsibility and (ii) will become responsible in the next 12 months. [231254]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Cabinet Office paper in the House Library 'Machinery of Government: economy, business, climate change, energy and environment' sets out this information. There are ongoing negotiations to determine the overall functions of the Department and which additional regulators, inspectorate, executive agencies and NDPB might become the responsibility of the Department. Once these are completed they will be a matter of public record.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many vacant posts for which he is responsible were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230591]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: DECC has only been in existence since 3 October 2008. Discussions on the final resourcing of the Department are not yet complete.

Electricity

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the required investment in the electricity transmission infrastructure in *(a)* Scotland and *(b)* the UK in the next (i) five, (ii) 10 and (iii) 15 years; and if he will make a statement. [229991]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In support of the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation exercise BERR commissioned advice from independent consultants Sinclair Knight Merz to provide an initial high level assessment of the costs, benefits and issues to be addressed in accommodating high levels of renewable electricity generating capacity into the electricity transmission and distribution system in Great Britain. This analysis was published alongside the consultation document and is available at

http://renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk/related_documents.

Investment in electricity transmission infrastructure is ultimately a matter for the owners and operators. National Grid and the Scottish transmission owners, Scottish and Southern Energy and ScottishPower, are currently conducting transmission investment studies to identify the likely scenarios and associated investment costs to deliver the transmission capacity required in 2020 and beyond, with wider industry input through an Electricity Networks Strategy Group. A report is expected to be finalised by the end of January 2009.

Electricity Generation

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what periods of outage occurred in each of the principal power stations in Great Britain because of *(a)* planned maintenance and *(b)* unplanned reasons in the last 12 months; what the lost generating capacity was in each case; and if he will make a statement. [230680]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The management and performance of individual power stations is a commercially confidential matter for electricity generating companies. Table 5.10 in the Digest of UK Energy Statistics, available at

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/dukes08_c5.pdf.

shows the aggregated load factors achieved by plants of different generating technology types in the years 2003-07.

Electricity Generation: Scotland

Mr. Ingram: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of electricity generating capacity in Scotland in *(a)* five, *(b)* 10 and *(c)* 15 years time; and if he will make a statement. [229990]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government do not make separate estimates for future levels of generating capacity in different parts of Great Britain. Scenarios for future electricity generating capacity in the UK are set out in the Updated Energy Projections of February 2008, available at

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file39580.pdf.

These projections do not, however, take account of any policy changes that may be made in pursuance of the Renewables Energy Strategy, which will be published next spring.

Energy: Prices

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the gap between *(a)* wholesale market prices and *(b)* retail prices for home energy fuels; and if he will make a statement. [228791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: According to the recent Ofgem probe, wholesale gas and electricity costs make up about 65 per cent. of the retail prices of gas and electricity. Changes in wholesale energy prices of gas and electricity tend to be passed through to retail prices with a lag. Retail pricing structures of companies are commercial decisions by the energy supply companies and the Government do not interfere in commercial pricing decisions in the energy supply markets.

Fuel Poverty: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people were in fuel poverty in Hemel Hempstead constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [229656]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The most recent year for which sub-national estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset—available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/.

In 2003, there were around 2,000 households in the constituency of Hemel Hempstead living in fuel poverty.

Fuel poverty is not measured at an individual level so these data may not reflect the current situation.

Fuel Poverty: Pembrokeshire

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in Pembrokeshire in fuel poverty. [229260]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The responsibility for estimating fuel poverty in Wales lies with the Welsh Assembly Government.

The most recent geographical split of fuel poverty information in Wales comes from the Living in Wales survey, 2004. This shows that in 2004, there were around 42,000 fuel poor households in mid-Wales, the region that contains Pembrokeshire. Information on fuel poverty at a local authority level for Wales is not currently available.

The full 2004 fuel poverty report can be found here:

http://new.wales.gov.uk/dsjlg/research/fuelpoverty2004/analysise.pdf?lang=en

Heating: Housing

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Wales and *(b)* Pembrokeshire that have kerosene heating. [229259]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The information requested would be the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government. Information on the number of households using kerosene heating is not currently available.

Miners: Pensions

Mr. Byers: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will reform the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme to ensure that the entire surplus is used for the benefit of former mineworkers. [229738]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: The guarantee and surplus sharing arrangements which have existed for the Mineworkers' Pension Scheme since 1994 strike the best balance between protecting the interests of the scheme membership and the taxpayer. There are no plans to seek to reform them.

National Grid

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will list in date order the generating companies which have secured places in the queue for National Grid connections; how much grid capacity is reserved for each; what the source is of electricity generation in each case; and if he will make a statement. [230679]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: Currently there are around 50GW in total of generation with offers of connection to the grid.

National Grid publish a list of all offers of connections to the grid on their Transmission Entry Capacity (TEC) Register. This is available on their website

http://www.nationalgrid.com/uk/Electricity/GettingConnected/gb_agreements/gbqueue/.

The TEC register includes specific projects, grid capacity and dates for completion but is not broken down by generation type. National Grid do not currently publish a breakdown of the projects by generation type.

We do not hold information on each generation type of the projects with offers of grid connection, although the DECC Re Stats planning database

http://www.restats.org.uk/

lists renewable generation projects by type of renewable energy.

Natural Gas: Stroud

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many and what proportion of households in Stroud constituency are not on the mains gas network; and what plans he has to facilitate access to households which are not on it. [228696]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not hold detailed information about communities and households that are not connected to the mains gas network. The Design and Demonstration Unit within the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform previously developed a model for providing connections by packaging existing funding sources and using independent gas transporters to provide connections. That model was instrumental in persuading Ofgem to agree to incentivise the large gas networks to provide connections to deprived communities. This incentivisation is available to the networks under the new 2008-13 Gas Distribution Price Control, and I very much hope that they will take the opportunities it offers.

Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* briefings he has had on nuclear power; with whom; on what dates; and if he will post on his departmental website copies of all briefings he has received on (i) nuclear and (ii) other power generation sources since his appointment. [228641]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have had introductory meetings on a range of matters concerning our new portfolios which includes nuclear. As such briefs and presentations provide advice and information to Ministers, the Department will not be publishing them.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the *(a)* conduct and *(b)* content of the second round of consultation on nuclear power policy in summer 2007; and if he will post on his Department's website the statements issued by his Department on the judgement of the Market Research Standards Board on the market research which informed the consultation. [230133]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Last year's consultation on the future of nuclear power in the UK was a full and transparent consultation, lasting 20 weeks. We published a comprehensive consultation document, had a dedicated website, ran press advertising, held stakeholder events and commissioned Opinion Leader to run deliberative events with the public.

The decision by the Market Research Standards Board referred to Opinion Leader's conduct in relation to the deliberative events, one part of our consultation. I have published on our website the response the Department issued on this matter.

Radioactive Waste: Waste Management

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proposals the UK put forward to the meeting of the Executive Committee of the Global Nuclear Energy Partnership (GNEP) on 1 October 2008 in respect of the establishment of a working group on radioactive waste management; and what consideration the GNEP has given to the concept of regional repositories for radioactive waste. [229960]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The GNEP Executive Committee was informed of a proposal by the UK to establish a working group on radioactive waste management. My right hon. Friend, the then Minister for Energy said that the GNEP should have a credible strategy for the management of radioactive waste and this strategy should cover operational waste produced during power station operation; decommissioning waste; and any spent fuel for which no reprocessing is planned.

The concept was well received, although some GNEP partners requested more time to consider if there is a need for a separate working group and whether the timing is right to establish a new working group now. A workshop has been organised by GNEP in December to discuss this and recommend the best way forward.

With the UK proposal for a working group on radioactive waste management still under consideration, GNEP has yet to consider any substantive aspect of radioactive waste management including regional repositories.

Renewable Energy: South West

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many jobs have been created in the renewable energy sector in the South West region in each of the last five years. [230832]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department does not collect annual data on job creation in the renewable energy sector at the regional level.

Surveys were, however, carried out by DTZ in 2005 and 2008 on behalf of Regen SW and the results published in 'The Economic Contribution of the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Sector in the South West of England'. According to the surveys, 1,140 direct jobs (FTEs) were reported in 2005. The April 2008 survey reported 2,900 jobs.

The 2008 report can be downloaded from:

http://www.regensw.co.uk/downloads/
RegenSW_149pdf#search="economic%20contribution".

Mr. Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps the Government are taking to ensure that the South West region attains its target of generating 15 to 20 per cent. of its energy needs through renewable sources by 2020. [230835]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government's climate change supplement to Planning Policy Statement (PPS) 1—Delivering Sustainable Development expects regional planning bodies to set regional targets for renewable energy generation in line with PPS22—Renewable Energy, and to

> 'ensure their ambition fully reflects opportunities in the region, are consistent with the Government's national targets and, where appropriate in the light of delivery, are periodically revised upwards'.

The Government previously had a UK-wide target of 10 per cent. renewable electricity by 2010, and an aspiration to double this by 2020. It is likely that the UK will be set a target of 15 per cent. renewable energy (i.e. heat, transport and electricity) by 2020 as our share of the EU target to produce 20 per cent. of the EU's energy from renewable sources in 2020. We would expect the UK's share of the target to be translated into local/regional policies when it has been agreed.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what representations he has received on the effects of a Severn Barrage on biodiversity on and near the Severn. [231156]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The views of statutory consultees, environmental NGOs and other key stakeholders on biodiversity issues are being considered as part of the Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) being carried out for the Government by a consortium led by Parsons Brinckerhoff. The Strategic Environmental Assessment has a steering group, and this includes representation of biodiversity interests by statutory consultees, Government agencies and non-governmental organisations.

Some bodies and individuals have also given their views on the various potential environmental impacts of a tidal power scheme in the Severn Estuary, in response to a Call for Information issued by Parsons Brinckerhoff in May 2008. This invited interested parties to submit comments or information that could contribute to the assessment. Responses in relation to biodiversity have been received from the Chartered Institution of Water and Environmental Management, Countryside Council for Wales, Environment Agency, Forest of Dean District Council, Gloucestershire County Council, National Trust, Natural England, Mr. Ray Parker, PML Applications Ltd, Ravensrodd Consultants Ltd, RSPB, Sedgemor District Council, Severn Estuary Partnership, South East Wales Biodiversity Records Centre, Shawater Ltd, Stroud District Council, South West Regional Assembly, Welsh Assembly Government, and the Wye and Usk Foundation.

In addition, a Regional Forum of leaders of local authorities, business and environmental networks meets quarterly to discuss progress and key issues of the feasibility study, including impacts on biodiversity.

There will be an opportunity for the public to give their views during the consultation on the feasibility study and SEA scoping report planned for January 2009.

Wind Power

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much his Department and its predecessor spent on promoting commercial wind turbines in each of the last five years. [228677]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The question appears to relate to advertising and publicity in respect of commercial wind turbines. Neither this Department nor its predecessors have provided any direct financial support for advertising or publicity relating to large-scale commercial wind turbines.

The Government support small-scale installations through phases 1 and 2 of the Low Carbon Buildings Programme. Therefore, promotional activity through these programmes will have covered small-scale wind turbines.

We provide business development support for the UK renewable energy sector through UKTI (BERR) and DECC's Renewables Deployment Business Development team. This work is essentially aimed at maximising business opportunities for the sector, both domestically and overseas.

Public sector funding for low carbon technology innovation, including wind power is being delivered through the Carbon Trust, Research Councils, the Energy Technologies Institute (ETI), the Technology Strategy Board (TSB) and the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF). These bodies do not use Government funding for publicising wind turbines. Government money may, however, be spent on publicising their activities in the field of renewable energy and this could therefore include wind turbines. Any such amounts would be negligible.

The renewables obligation (RO) is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable generating capacity. It is administered by Ofgem and places an obligation on licensed electricity suppliers to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources. Generators receive one renewables obligation certificate (ROC) for each megawatt hour of eligible generation.

The Government's policy is that it is for the market to bring forward proposals for wind power developments which, with support from the RO, are financially viable.

Wind Power: Finance

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether wind power subsidies resulting from the renewables obligation may be awarded to companies registered in tax havens; and if he will make a statement. [231195]

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether wind power subsidies resulting from the renewables obligation may be awarded to companies who are registered in other countries; and if he will make a statement. [231196]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The renewables obligation does not provide subsidies to licensed electricity suppliers but instead places an obligation on them to source a specific and annually increasing proportion of their sales from renewable sources. Suppliers meet their obligation either by presenting renewable obligation Certificates (ROCs); by paying a buy-out price; or a combination of presenting ROCs and paying the buy-out price. Money from the buy-out fund is recycled pro-rata to suppliers presenting ROCs.

ROCs are issued to accredited generators for every 1 MWh of electricity generated from eligible renewable sources. The electricity must be generated within the UK and supplied to customers within the UK by a licensed electricity supplier, or used in another permitted way. The Renewables Obligation Order places no restrictions on who may own or operate a generating station or hold a supply licence.

Wind Power: Planning

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Transport and *(b)* the Highways Agency on the siting of wind turbines near motorways. [231489]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has not had any discussions with the Department for Transport or the Highways Agency on the siting of wind turbines near motorways.

Any proposals to site wind turbines near motorways would be subject to the usual planning development consents under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 or the Electricity Act 1989.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many *(a)* couples and *(b)* single people approved to adopt were added to the Adoption Register in each year since its creation; [232635]

(2) how many children were added to the Adoption Register in each year since its creation. [232636]

Beverley Hughes: This information can be found in the following table:

Number of prospective adopters and children referred to the Adoption Register for England and Wales for the year ending December

	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007
Prospective adopters—couples	2,263	1,678	1,444	1,081	1,252	1,196
Prospective adopters—single	185	129	139	134	182	167
Children	2,645	1,879	2,119	1,657	1,727	1,832

Source:
The Adoption Register for England and Wales.

Anti-Bullying Alliance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he has allocated to the Anti-Bullying Alliance for each of the next three years; for what purposes; and if he will make a statement. [231361]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Anti Bullying Alliance is funded by the Department to deliver a three year programme of work from April 2008 to (i) raise awareness of how to recognise, prevent and tackle bullying in the education sector, and (ii) offer support and challenge to local authorities and schools to help embed anti-bullying work effectively on the ground.

The funding allocated to this work, excluding VAT, in each of the next three years is shown in the table.

£

	Awareness raising	*Embedding work*
2008-09	299,174	550,000
2009-10	298,950	550,000
2010-11	308,603	550,000

Children: Databases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which people and organisations will have access to the National Child Database; [231716]

(2) what security measures will be put in place to protect the data stored on the National Child Database; and if he will make a statement; [231717]

(3) what procedures will be put in place to ensure that information stored on the National Child Database is accurate; and if he will make a statement; [231718]

(4) whether details of a child kept on the National Child Database will be destroyed once that child reaches the age of 18 years. [231719]

Beverley Hughes: The purpose of ContactPoint is to support practitioners in fulfilling their duties under section 10 (duty to co-operate to improve well-being), and section 11 (safeguarding and promoting welfare of children) of the Children Act 2004, section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (duty to safeguard and promote the welfare of children), and the local authority duties established by section 436A of the Education Act 1996 (to identify children not receiving education).

In response to question 231716, regulation 9(2) of the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 provides that access to ContactPoint may only be granted, in line with this purpose, by a local authority to the persons specified in schedule 3 (listed at annex A). Regulation 9(3) provides that such access to ContactPoint may only be granted, in line with the same purpose, by a 'national partner', (listed at annex B), to an employee of that 'national partner'.

In response to question 231717, a number of robust security measures will be in place to ensure security:

ContactPoint has multi-layer, 'defence-in-depth' security controls, meeting industry best practice and Government security guidelines;

As an accredited Government system, its security has been and will continue to be audited and approved, at all stages, by relevant security bodies;

additional assessments and rigorous testing will be undertaken by independent security experts during build and before the system goes live—ContactPoint will not go live until it has passed these tests;

these tests will be repeated annually to ensure continued compliance and to take account of emerging threats;

all data supplied to ContactPoint will be strongly encrypted and extensive measures are being 'taken to ensure that the data will be transmitted securely;

auditing will continue during operation;

ContactPoint access is tightly controlled, such that the application can only be seen at all by users in accredited organisations;

access will be strictly regulated to those who need it as part of their work;

users will have current enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance (renewable every three years), or a police equivalent;

users must undertake compulsory ContactPoint training in the safe and secure use of the system, including compliance with the Data Protection Act and Human Rights Acts;

users must sign an acceptable use policy form to acknowledge that they understand the conditions of use;

minimum search criteria will be required in order to prevent 'trawling' and other misuse of ContactPoint, and parameters for number of records which can be returned from a search will also be limited in order to reduce such a risk;

all users will be strongly authenticated using 'two-factor authentication' (a security token with separate password and PIN) in order to gain access to ContactPoint,

all users will have to state clear reasons for why they are accessing ContactPoint;

all use of the system will be continuously audited and monitored—every access to a child's record will be recorded in the ContactPoint audit trail, which will be regularly monitored to ensure that any misuse is detected and followed up.

Security is of paramount importance in the development and operation of ContactPoint. The independent security assessment by Deloitte which ran until February 2008 confirmed that robust measures are in place for the security of ContactPoint and acknowledged that the importance of security is ingrained within the project. The review did not find any areas of significant weakness. While, overall, the report was very positive about security across the project, it made some recommendations about controls and measures to consider, in addition to those already planned, to be in place when the system goes live. We have accepted all the recommendations and are implementing them.

In response to question 231718, wherever possible, ContactPoint will be automatically updated from existing systems so that practitioners will not need to enter the same information twice. The aim is that the system should not impose burdens on front-line practitioners and that it should fit conveniently into their daily work. All data supplied will be in accordance with and constrained by section 12 of the Children Act 2004 and the supporting regulations, which specifically prohibit the inclusion of any case information.

Records from a range of national and local sources will be combined using data matching technology to produce a comprehensive set of basic information about each child. This will mean that ContactPoint builds a 'best view' of all information on a child from both national and local data sources. This makes it highly resilient to errors in any individual source; where these occur, they will be identified and flagged back to the source for correction.

Those persons or bodies required or permitted to supply information to ContactPoint must take reasonable steps to ensure the information is accurate; they already have obligations for data accuracy under the Data Protection Act 1998. If a local authority considers that there are inaccuracies or omitted information in a record for which it is responsible, the authority must also take reasonable steps to correct the inaccuracy or to complete the record.

In response to question 231719, regulation 4 (1) of the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 sets out that ContactPoint will contain information on all children in England up to their 18 birthday. There is provision (in regulation 4(2)) for certain young people who receive additional services—care leavers and those with learning disabilities—to remain on ContactPoint up to age 25 but only with their informed, explicit consent. This is to help facilitate the transition to adult services for those young people that may have multiple, additional needs. For the majority of children however, their record will be archived after their 18 birthday and remain there for six years, after which it will be permanently deleted.

Annex A

Persons or bodies permitted by a local authority to access ContactPoint

1.—(1) A person employed in relation to the exercise by or on behalf of a local authority of the functions specified in paragraph (2).

(2) The functions referred to in paragraph (1) are:

(a) social services functions (within the meaning of the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970;

(b) functions under—(i) Parts 4 (special educational needs) and 6 (school admissions, attendance and charges) of the Education Act 1996;

(ii) section 175 of the Education Act 2002 (duties of LEAs and governing bodies in relation to welfare of children);

(c) functions under Part 1 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 (fire and rescue authorities) so far as relating to a fire and rescue service strategy for children and young people;

(d) functions under section 10 (co-operation to improve well-being) or 11 (arrangements to safeguard and promote welfare) of the Act;

(e) functions conferred on the authority by these regulations.

2. A health care professional regulated by a body mentioned in section 25(3) of the National Health Service Reform and Health Care Professions Act 2002, or a person assisting such a professional in the exercise of his profession.

3. A member or an employee of a police authority, a chief officer of police for a police area in England, or a member or any other employee of a police force for a police area in England.

4. An officer of the British Transport Police Authority, so far as exercising functions in relation to England.

5. An officer of a local probation board for an area in England.

6. A member of a youth offending team for an area in England.

7.—(1) The governor of a prison or secure training centre in England (or, in the case of a contracted out prison or secure training centre, its director).

(2) An officer of a prison or a secure training centre (or, in the case of a contracted out secure training centre, a custody officer).

(3) An administrator assisting an officer of a secure training centre (or, in the case of a contracted out secure training centre, assisting a custody officer).

8. A person (other than the Secretary of State) providing services under section 114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000, or employed by such a person to provide those services.

9.—(1) A person employed at a school specified in sub-paragraph (2) as:

(a) the head teacher;

(b) a deputy head teacher;

(c) an administrator;

(d) a head of year or a teacher other than a head of year who has pastoral or child protection responsibilities;

(e) a teacher of children with special educational needs;

(f) a co-ordinator of special educational needs provision, or who is carrying out functions equivalent to the functions of a person referred to in paragraphs (b) to (e).

(2) The schools referred to in sub-paragraph (1) are:

(a) a maintained school in England (within the meaning of section 175 of the Education Act 2002);

(b) an independent school in England (within the meaning of the Education Act 1996), and

(c) a special school which is not maintained by a local authority and which has been approved as a special school under section 342 of the Education Act 1996(b) (approval of non-maintained special schools).

10. A person employed at an institution within the further education sector (within the meaning of section 91 of the Further and Higher Education Act 1992(c)) as:

(a) the principal;

(b) a deputy principal;

(c) a tutor with pastoral or child protection responsibilities or responsibilities in relation to special educational needs;

(d) an administrator, or who is carrying out functions equivalent to the functions of a person referred to in paragraphs (b) to (d).

11. An employee of a voluntary organisation exercising functions or engaged in activities in relation to persons to whom arrangements specified in section 12(1) of the Act relate.

12. A social care worker within the meaning of section 55(2) of the Care Standards Act 2000 who is registered with the General Social Care Council.

13. A member of the staff of the Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service appointed under paragraph 5(1) of Schedule 2 to the Criminal Justice and Court Services Act 2000.

14.—(1) A person employed by a fire and rescue authority to which this paragraph applies in relation to a fire and rescue service strategy for children and young people.

(2) This paragraph applies to a fire and rescue authority (determined in accordance with Part 1 of the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004) for any area in England for which the local authority (within the meaning in these regulations) is not the fire and rescue authority.

15. An employee of the Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (an affiliate of the Serious Organised Crime Agency), so far as it is exercising functions in relation to the sexual abuse of children.

Annex B

National Partners

1. KIDS (registered charity number 275936);

2. Barnardo's (registered charity number 216250);

3. The National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children (registered charity number 216401);

4. Action for Children (Registered charity Nos. 1097940/SC038092) (Formerly NCH);

5. Church of England Children's Society (registered charity number 221124);

6. The Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre (an affiliate of the Serious Organised Crime Agency);

7. The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service.

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 704W, on children: databases, (1) if he will place a copy of the original circular sent by his Department's ContactPoint team in the Library; who authorised the sending of original circular; and to whom it was sent; [232461]

(2) what enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks are proposed for *(a)* professionals who can access ContactPoint and *(b)* in-house and contracted IT staff responsible for maintaining the ContactPoint system; [232463]

(3) which groups of people will be subject to additional security measures before their details may be accessed on ContactPoint; and what additional security arrangement will be put in place on ContactPoint for the details of children who are subject to the Witness Protection Scheme; [232464]

(4) what progress has been made with shielding arrangements for ContactPoint; and if he will make a statement. [232465]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* In answer to question 232461, the original circular is already in the public domain. However I have today placed in the Library a copy of this note, together with a copy of the covering email. Names have been redacted pending the outcome of standard disciplinary procedures regarding the precise circumstances of the note's release which has been commissioned by David Bell, Permanent Secretary of the Department for Children, Schools and Families. As Mr. Bell said in his letter of 24 October to the hon. Member for Surrey Heath (Michael Gove) (also in the Library), Ministers neither commissioned the note nor approved its release. The note was sent by officials to ContactPoint implementation co-ordinators; the covering email said that they might pass it on to implementation managers in local authorities.

In answer to question 232463, all access to ContactPoint will be strictly restricted to those staff who need it as part of their work. One of the conditions of access is that they must, as a minimum, have a current enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance which is renewable every three years. IT staff, whether in-house or contracted by the Department, who are responsible for maintaining the ContactPoint system will also be subject to the same standard of enhanced Criminal Records Bureau clearance.

In answer to question 232464, records of some children, whose circumstances may mean that they, or others, are at increased risk of harm (for example, those fleeing domestic violence), may be subject to 'shielding', whereby some of their details which could give an indication of their whereabouts will be hidden from users' view. The decision to shield will be taken on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the level of threat posed if their information becomes more widely available. Such a decision can only be undertaken by a local authority which is under a duty to consider the views of the person to whom the record relates, the views of their parent or carer, and of any schedule 4 or schedule 5 body (as specified by the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007), involved with the child or young person. This is not unique to ContactPoint and is already used in other systems, and is entirely consistent with the Data Protection Act.

The Department has been working closely with officials in the National Policing Improvement Agency with regards to shielding, specifically how to manage records of children and young people who are subject to witness protection.

In answer to question 232465, local authorities are undertaking local analysis using the shielding assessment—a means by which they will report their progress to the ContactPoint national team on pre-deployment shielding preparations and action. Local authorities are currently engaging with local partners to ensure that those partners understand the shielding guidance and agree how their data can be securely transferred to ContactPoint. Thereafter, identified local authority staff will be trained how to shield records, and in January/February 2009 shielding of these records will commence.

Children: Protection

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many children there are on the at risk register in Hampshire, broken down by reason for such registration. [231551]

Beverley Hughes: The number of children who were the subject of a child protection plan (on the child protection register) in Hampshire for the latest five years for which data are available is set out in the table. These figures are published on the website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000811/index.shtml

Children[1] who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan: Years ending 31 March 2004-08

Hampshire	*Number*
2004	425
2005	465
2006	460
2007	445
2008	465

[1] Includes unborn children.

Source:
CPR3

The data are broken down by age and gender and by category of abuse. For the year ending 31 March 2008 children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan in Hampshire were broken down by category of abuse as follows:

Hampshire	*Number*
All children[1]	465
Neglect	275
Physical abuse	75
Sexual abuse	45
Emotional abuse	65
Multiple/Not Recommended[2]	0

[1] Includes unborn children

[2] "Multiple" refers to instances where there is more than one category of abuse. These children are not counted under the other abuse headings, so a child can appear only once in this table. "Not recommended" refers to classificatory categories not recommended by 'Working Together'(1999)

For the year ending 31 March 2008 children who were the subject of a Child Protection Plan in Hampshire were broken down by age and gender as follows:

Hampshire	*Number*
All children[1]	465
Boys	250
Girls	210
Under 1 year	55
1-4 years	135
5-9 years	150
10-15 years	115
16 years and over	10

[1] Includes unborn children

Education

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken since the publication of the White Paper, "Back on Track", in May 2008 on transforming the quality of alternative educational provision for those pupils who are unable to attend mainstream or special schools. [231386]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: On 23 October, the Secretary of State announced a package of measures based on the proposals set out in "Back on Track".

The publication of the document "Taking Back on Track Forward", which responds to consultation and outlines the next steps to be implemented;

The publication of new guidance "Commissioning Alternative Provision: Guidance for Local Authorities and Schools";

The launch of a database of providers of alternative provision;

Specifications for the role of the local authority 'named officer'; and

12 alternative provision pilots to explore innovation and best practice.

These have all been placed on the Department's internet site and can be found at the following page:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/exclusions/alternative_provision_policies/index.cfm

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will list the programmes and corresponding allocations aggregated as Other Miscellaneous Programmes for the year 2008-09 in the Schools section of Table 8.3 of his Department's 2008 annual report. [233087]

Ed Balls: Table 1 lists the schools programmes aggregated under the "Other Miscellaneous" title and their corresponding projected allocations for 2008-09, as shown in the 2008 Departmental Annual Report.

Table 1: List of Other Miscellaneous Programmes

Schools	*£ million*
Music and Dance Capital	34
Medical Fees and Services	1
Premature Retirement Compensation	12
Teacher Development Agency	600
National College for School Leadership	83
Partnership for Schools	1
Inclusion Programmes/ Behaviour/ Aim higher / Alternative provision	4
Governors/ Admissions/ Independent State Schools/ Travel Advisers/ School Meals	5
Teachers Pensions Contractual	1
Partnerships and Federations	9
Pupil attainment and assessment publications	1
Gifted and Talented/ Study Support/ Playing for Success	32

Table 1: List of Other Miscellaneous Programmes

Schools	*£ million*
Curriculum	32
Sport	22
Total	837

National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what entitlements to *(a)* further study and *(b)* particular GCSEs for pupils were based on a particular level of key stage 3 attainment; and what steps he plans to take on this after the abolition of key stage 3 tests. [232335]

Jim Knight: The only entitlement based on Key Stage 3 results is that pupils who achieve level 6 at Key Stage 3 science are entitled to study separate biology, physics and chemistry GCSEs (triple science). This entitlement will continue, based on levels awarded by teacher assessment instead of using the results of externally marked tests.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) in how many primary schools fewer than *(a)* 50 per cent., *(b)* 60 per cent., *(c)* 70 per cent. and *(d)* 80 per cent. of pupils obtained level 4 in a combination of mathematics, reading and writing tests at key stage 2 in 2008; [232409]

(2) in how many primary schools fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils obtained a level 4 in a combination of English and mathematics key stage 2 tests in 2008; [232414]

(3) in how many primary schools in each local authority area decile of multiple deprivation fewer than 65 per cent. of pupils obtained level 4 in a combination of English and mathematics key stage two tests in 2008. [232415]

Jim Knight: 2008 results are not available until after the publication of the Primary School Achievement and Attainment Tables.

Pupil Exclusions

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) which local authorities have established pupils at risk panels; [231381]

(2) which authorities have reduced the number of exclusions of pupils by the operation of pupils at risk panels. [231385]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect this information centrally.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the use of learning support units being used as a form of internal exclusion of pupils in schools. [231383]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has received no such representations.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on the practice of informal or unofficial exclusions of pupils from maintained schools. [231390]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department receives a small number of complaints under sections 496 and 497 of the Education Act 1996 about school exclusions, some of which allege informal, unofficial or illegal exclusions. These complaints are dealt with as appropriate under the Act.

Pupil Referral Units

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were permanently excluded from pupil referral units in each of the last three years; and what the process is for identifying a suitable setting for educational provision for such children. [231380]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The requested information on exclusions from pupil referral units in 2006-07 is no longer collected centrally. The latest date for which we have such data, 2004-05, shows that 40 pupils were permanently excluded from pupil referral units.

It is up to each local authority to determine the most appropriate setting for pupils who have been permanently excluded from pupil referral units. We do not specify the process by which local authorities determine this but we would expect them to base their decision on the pupil's individual needs.

On 23 October we published new guidance for local authorities and schools on commissioning alternative provision from external sources, such as from the voluntary and private sectors, which will help them to commission appropriate provision. The guidance makes clear that it is important that any underlying causes of challenging behaviour are identified and addressed.

Pupils: Intimidation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will consider increasing the frequency of schools' holding of anti-bullying weeks to encourage a greater focus on different aspects of bullying and appropriate responses. [231356]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The materials provided for anti-bullying week by the Anti Bullying Alliance, and the Department's own anti-bullying guidance and materials, are designed to engage schools in anti-bullying activities throughout the year. Anti-bullying week in November provides an opportunity for schools to celebrate all the work they have done throughout the year to prevent and tackle bullying, and it also sets the agenda for the future school year. The slogan for anti-bullying week this year is 'Being different, belonging together', and the focus is on ensuring that schools' anti-bullying strategies are underpinned and supported through excellent practice on diversity, inclusion and equality. The Government have also introduced a statutory duty for head teachers to determine measures to prevent all forms of bullying, including those motivated by prejudice, and we have published detailed guidance which provides schools with advice oh how best to fulfil this duty.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the first year of the Secondary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning programme in tackling bullying. [231357]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There is some early evidence on the effectiveness of the first year of the Secondary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) programme in tackling bullying. The University of Manchester conducted an interim review and found evidence that pupils and teachers who are involved with SEAL were better equipped to tackle bullying. The full effects of SEAL will inevitably take some years to be fully felt. However, when SEAL is effectively implemented across the whole school, it establishes strong foundations that work to prevent bullying can build upon.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the national anti-bullying strategies regional advisers have taken to spread good practice in anti-bullying policy since inception. [231360]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The national strategies have a team of cross-phase regional advisers, each of whom provides support and challenge to a group of local authorities (LAs) in all areas of behaviour including anti-bullying. Universal, targeted and/or intensive activities are developed in LAs, according to need and priority.

Universal support and challenge is provided through regular discussions with LAs, termly regional network meetings and data gathering. It is also provided through a range of materials and resources, including core training materials, an anti-bullying toolkit and focused anti-bullying units in the primary and secondary Social and Emotional Aspects of Learning (SEAL) materials. Evidence and impact of LA work is tested partly through school visits and robust analysis of the data submitted by LAs.

Good grace is disseminated nationally through termly regional network meetings and locally through termly Behaviour and Attendance leader network meetings, planned and delivered by Behaviour and Attendance consultants and often supported by the regional advisors.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what response he has received from schools to the recommendation in Safe to Learn: Embedding anti-bullying work in schools that they should record all incidents of bullying, including by type, and report the statistics to their local authority. [231363]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have not asked for a response from schools on this issue.

We are now proposing to introduce a statutory requirement for all schools to record (not report) incidents of verbal or physical abuse which are linked to bullying. We will be going out to consultation on how to take this forward in the new year and will invite comments from a range of stakeholders including head teachers, professional associations, governors, parents and young people.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will invite Ofsted to assess the extent to which schools are demonstrating effective leadership in promoting an open and honest anti-bullying ethos. [231365]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: All inspectors are required, when carrying out Section 5 and 'reduced tariff' inspections, to ensure that they check the school systems for dealing with all forms of bullying. Inspectors consult parents and pupils and, while inspectors are not expected to follow up individual cases, they are expected to follow up on the overarching issues and to take appropriate action.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to contribute to Anti-Bullying Week in November 2008. [231366]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Secretary of State is considering this matter in consultation with key stakeholders including the Anti-Bullying Alliance. He will set out what he intends to do in due course.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate he has made of the incidence of bullying in pupil referral units in each of the last three years; [231382]

(2) what estimate he has made of the incidence of bullying of pupils in maintained schools in each of the last three years; [231388]

(3) what estimate he has made of the incidence of bullying in maintained schools on grounds of *(a)* race or religion, *(b)* sexual orientation and *(c)* disability in each of the last three years; [231391]

(4) what assessment he has made of the adequacy of schools' data recording systems in relation to the effectiveness of their anti-bullying policies. [231358]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We are unable to provide figures for the number of bullying incidents in either PRU's or maintained schools as we do not collect these data centrally. However, we do collect data on young people's perceptions of bullying through the annual TellUs survey and have recently published the results of TellUs 3. The survey showed that 48 per cent. of children and young people experienced bullying during the previous year, either in school or in another setting.

We do not collect regular data on bullying related to race or religion, sexual orientation or disability and special educational needs. However, our annual Longitudinal Study of Young People in England (LSYPE) survey shows that white pupils, religious pupils not belonging to one of the mainstream religions, pupils with a disability and/or pupils with special educational needs are more likely to be bullied than their peers. The prevalence of bullying in all these groups decreases as the pupils get older.

We have introduced an indicator on bullying which underpins the Child Safety Public Service Agreement (PSA 13, NI69), and made clear that we expect the proportion of children and young people who experience bullying to go down over the spending review period. We have made clear that we will monitor progress on this indicator using the annual TellUs survey. My Department has also set up a board to monitor progress against the PSA. The board will look at a range of evidence and data to ensure that we are making satisfactory progress against this indicator including evidence in respect of bullying related to race and religion, sexual orientation, special educational needs and disability. We will seek to ensure that the proportion of black and minority ethnic, gay or disabled young people who experience bullying also goes down.

We have not carried out a systematic assessment of schools' data recording systems in relation to the effectiveness of their anti-bullying policies. However, we have asked the Anti-Bullying Alliance and National Strategies to work with local authorities and schools to ensure that they are effectively implementing the Department's guidance, and using the Anti-Bullying Charter to draw up robust policies. As part of this process, they will seek to ensure that schools have appropriate procedures in place for recording bullying incidents. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Children Schools and Families, recently announced that we would introduce a new statutory requirement for schools to record incidents of verbal or physical abuse relating to bullying. We intend to consult key stakeholders on this over the coming months.

Pupils: Languages

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of pupils at *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary schools in (i) Bexley and (ii) London who do not speak English as a first language. [232609]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The number of pupils whose first language is known or believed to be other than English in Bexley and London can be found in table 20 of the 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)' Statistical First Release accessible via

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/SFR_09_2008_LA_Tables.xls.

Schools: Discipline

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many behaviour and attendance consultants there are in maintained schools. [231362]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: There are 270 behaviour and attendance consultants in maintained schools in England and Wales.

Schools: Mediation

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the *(a)* scale and *(b)* effectiveness of mediation through a third party to resolve conflicts between two parties within a school; [231364]

(2) what assessment he has made of the extent to which personal social health education and citizenship classes in schools are tackling the issue of bullying. [231355]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department has recently commissioned Goldsmiths college to undertake research into the effectiveness of our anti-bullying strategies. This research will provide the necessary quantitative and qualitative data needed to draw robust conclusions about the efficacy of different anti-bullying strategies, including mediation and PSHE and citizenship classes.

Specialised Diplomas

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what guidance he has issued on the criteria for entering pupils for the foundation or higher diplomas. [232134]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The prime criterion for deciding whether a young person undertakes a diploma is whether it is the best option for him or her. Diplomas, along with apprenticeships and general qualifications, are an important part of ensuring the right choices are available to young people.

Schools and colleges are determined that every young person should be able to access the programme of learning that is best suited to their abilities and aspirations. Diplomas are an important part of ensuring the right choices are available to young people and while, as with other qualifications, the diploma will not be the right choice for everyone the decision over whether a young person takes a diploma will be driven by what the young person wants to do, and what is in the best interests of that young person.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Internet

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on proposals by the BBC to establish a local network of news video sites; and if he will make a statement. [232996]

Andy Burnham: I have received a number of direct representations on BBC's plans for online local news provision. However, this is a matter for the BBC Trust. There is no provision for the Government to intervene in the BBC's day-to-day operational or editorial matters.

Broadcasting: Sight Impaired

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what representations he has received on increasing the target for audio-described programming *(a)* from 10 per cent. and *(b)* to 20 per cent. [233219]

Andy Burnham: I have received representations from the general public and the RNIB about increasing the current 10 per cent. target for audio-described programming to 20 per cent.

Ofcom have responsibility for assessing audio description usage on television programmes. I understand that they intend to investigate take-up and usage of audio description and to conduct an analysis of the social and financial implications of any possible increase in audio description as part of their 2009 Access Services Review.

Ofcom: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the budget is for Ofcom's regulatory activities in each of the next three financial years. [232698]

Andy Burnham: Ofcom is the independent regulator for the UK communications industry, and sets its budget on an annual basis, and publishes this on 31 March of every year. I am therefore unable to provide the budget figures requested for 2009-10 and 2010-11. Ofcom's budget for 2008-09 will be £133.7 million, 1.5 per cent. lower in real terms than its budget for 2007-08 and 17.5 per cent. lower in real terms than Ofcom's original full-year budget set in 2004-05.

A four year funding settlement was set with HM Treasury on 24 February 2007 and for 2009-10 and 2010-11—it is £142 million and £143 million respectively. Ofcom must operate within this settlement.

Swimming

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will hold discussions with the Swimming Teachers' Association on its Go for Gold scheme; and if he will make a statement. [232354]

Andy Burnham: I currently have no plans to meet the Swimming Teachers' Association. However, my officials will meet the Association in December to discuss the free swimming offer, and will use that opportunity to discuss the Swimming Teachers' Association's work more widely.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders have been issued in Islwyn constituency in the last 12 months. [231609]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Gwent police have informed the Home Office that one dispersal order was issued in Islwyn constituency in the last 12 months which ran from 11 October 2007 to 3 April 2008.

Asylum

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reasons luncheon vouchers are used to support asylum seekers on Section 4 support; and if she will make a statement. [230824]

Mr. Woolas: Failed asylum seekers who are eligible for support to avoid destitution under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are provided with accommodation and vouchers for food and other basic essential items. The Act prohibits the provision of cash subsistence. Luncheon vouchers are just one of the forms of voucher provided.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many legacy asylum cases she expects to have been determined by 31 December 2008. [231580]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer updates the Home Affairs Select Committee on the progress of concluding legacy cases every six months, with the next update due around the end of 2008. The Case Resolution Directorate has concluded over 100,000 cases and remains on track to complete this work by summer 2011. Every case is decided on its own merits.

Cannabis: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the effectiveness of the system for recording of cannabis warnings on the Police National Computer. [232131]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Following the announcement on 7 May of the Government's decision to reclassify cannabis to a class B drug under the Misuse of Drugs Act 1971, subject to parliamentary approval, at the request of my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary, the Association of Chief Police Officers set out its proposal for the policing of cannabis. The proposal identified the need to improve the recording of cannabis warnings, including the option of placing them on the police national computer. However, there is no current method for recording cannabis warnings on the PNC.

Community Support Officers: Ethnic Groups

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police community support officers were from an ethnic minority background in each year since their inception, broken down by police force. [227462]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The available data are given in the tables placed in the House Library.

The requested data are also published as part of the annual Police Service Strength England and Wales Statistical Bulletin. The 2008 bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and previous years' bulletins are available in the House of Commons Library. The annual Home Secretary's Race Employment Targets report may also be of interest in relation to the question asked:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/race-equality-targets-2006-07

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of serious violent crime were reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [228716]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics. Figures for 'most serious violence against the person' are therefore provided in the following tables.

Recorded crime statistics are not recorded at constituency level. The area of Jarrow comes within the South Tyneside crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) and figures at CDRP level for most serious violence offences are only available from 2000-01.

Table 1. Offences of most serious violence against the person recorded by the police—1997

Offence	*Number of offences* *1997*
Jarrow	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	n/a
North East Region	869
England and Wales	14,230

Table 2. Offences of most serious violence against the person recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

				Number of offences
Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Jarrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	n/a	n/a	63	62
North East Region	748	819	803	889
England and Wales	15,820	17,006	17,592	18,699

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the national crime recording standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3. Offences of most serious violence against the person recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

						Number of offences
Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jarrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	57	46	55	43	48	42
North East Region	1,003	1,053	992	997	957	828
England and Wales[1]	20,356	21,836	21,705	20,972	19,150	16,939

[1] Includes British Transport police from 2002-03.

Note:

The data in this table take account of the introduction of the national crime recording standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many cases of violent crime have been reported in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [228717]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics. We now provide figures for violence against the person and these are given in the following tables.

Recorded crime statistics are not recorded at constituency level. The area of Jarrow comes within the South Tyneside crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) and figures at CDRP level are only available from 1999-2000.

Table 1. Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—1997

Offence	*Number of offences* *1997*
Jarrow	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	n/a
North East Region	9,242
England and Wales	250,827

Table 2. offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

				Number of offences
Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Jarrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	n/a	1,280	1,483	1,686
North East Region	20,392	21,985	21,086	25,579
England and Wales	502,778	581,034	600,913	650,326

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.

2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the national crime recording standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3. Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

						Number of offences
Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Jarrow	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
South Tyneside CDRP	2,568	2,500	2,252	2,637	2,711	2,289
North East Region	39,164	40,561	41,537	46,206	48,194	41,085

Table 3. Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
England and Wales[1]	845,078	967,228	1,048,095	1,059,585	1,046,168	961,188

[1] Includes British Transport Police from 2002-03.

Note:
The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Crimes of Violence: Hampshire

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded incidents of violent crime there were in *(a)* Southampton, *(b)* Test Valley Borough and *(c)* the ceremonial county of Hampshire in each of the last five years. [231303]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics. We now provide figures for violence against the person and these are given in the following table.

The available information is given in the following table and relates to the Southampton and Test Valley crime and disorder reduction partnership (CDRP) areas and the Hampshire police force area.

Table 1. Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—2003-04 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Offence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Southampton CDRP	6,685	7,274	7,745	8,515	8,800
Test Valley CDRP	1,541	1,703	1,620	1,722	1,871
Hampshire	35,148	38,173	38,606	40,569	39,028

Departmental Advertising

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on television advertising in each of the last five years. [230781]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The following table outlines Home Office spend on television advertising in each of the last five years:

	Total TV spend (£)
2007-08	2,245,431
2006-07	4,600,476
2005-06	3,513,827
2004-05	4,569,830
2003-04	5,455,916

Note: These figures refer to the cost of media excluding fees, VAT and production costs.

During this time, TV advertising addressed the important issues of drug misuse, burglary, vehicle crime, alcohol harm and police and police community support officer recruitment.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what use *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222040]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office and its agencies use such data to target our paid for communications effectively, and maximise their value for money. ACORN data are also used to derive indicators applied within the principle formula Police Grant and in analysis of the British Crime Survey to help measure variations in the risk of being a victim of crime by type of residential neighbourhood. ACORN data are also used to group areas of the country sharing similar characteristics into most similar families which in turn enable each area to be compared with its peers for performance assessment purposes.

We will continue to use these commercial products in the future in new analyses where their application is most appropriate to answer analysis and research questions.

Departmental Postal Services

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of documents sent to members of the public by her Department were lost in the post in the latest period for which information is available. [228977]

Mr. Woolas: To assess the percentage of all documents lost in the post across the whole of the Home Office area of business would be disproportionate to costs. However, on the loss of passports, the Identity and Passport Service despatch new passports to customers by Secure Delivery, a secure courier service provided by Secure Mail Services (SMS). In the last two years, around 720 passports have been lost, which represents 0.012 per cent. of the 6 million total deliveries in those years. SMS couriers now use handheld GPS technology to assist in deliveries and losses are expected to significantly reduce as a consequence.

Deportation

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the people subject to a control order the Government have attempted to deport. [231632]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: We have considered deportation for all foreign nationals currently subject to a control order.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals were removed from the UK after they had been admitted to the country in each of the last 10 years. [232408]

Mr. Woolas: The following table shows the number of cases removed or departed voluntarily from the UK between 1998 and 2007. These figures include persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them and since January 1999 persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration. These figures exclude non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed (including cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls).

Further National Statistics on removals from the UK are available from the Library of the House and Table 6.1 of the Control of Immigration: Statistics United Kingdom 2007 bulletin

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf.

Enforced removals and voluntary departures from the UK[1] [2] [3], 1998 to 2007[4]

	Number
1998	10,860
1999	11,345
2000	13,815
2001	16,940
2002	22,000
2003	29,255
2004	24,990
2005	28,410
2006	31,970
2007[5]	32,220

[1] Includes enforced removals, persons departing voluntarily after enforcement action had been initiated against them, since January 1999 persons leaving under assisted voluntary return programmes run by the International Organisation for Migration and since January 2005 persons who it has been established have left the UK without informing the immigration authorities.

[2] Due to a reclassification of removal categories, figures include asylum removals which have been performed by Enforcement Officers using port powers of removal and a small number of asylum cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[3] Excludes non-asylum cases refused entry at port and subsequently removed from the UK (including non-asylum cases dealt with at juxtaposed controls.

[4] Figures are rounded to the nearest five.

[5] Provisional figures.

Deportation: Offenders

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many immigration officers are assigned to work in prisons on duties related to the deportation of foreign national prisoners; and in which prisons they work. [231573]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: There are currently 24 dedicated immigration officers (plus six assistant immigration officers) who work in prisons throughout the UK on duties related to the deportation of foreign national prisoners. Their work is supplemented by staff from local enforcement offices when required. In addition, there are seven immigration officers who are embedded in Canterbury and Bullwood Hall prisons.

The UK Border Agency (UKBA), working closely with the National Offender Management Service (NOMS), is planning to increase the number of immigration officers embedded in prisons during the next six months.

Drugs: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to introduce further powers to seize the assets of drug dealers. [232893]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government announced earlier this year, as part of the draft legislative programme for 2008-09, that we would introduce new measures on the seizure and recovery of criminal assets. That remains our firm intention. Legislation will be introduced as parliamentary time permits.

Drugs: Seizures

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the monetary value was of illegal drugs seized by the UK Border Agency in 2007-08. [227243]

Jacqui Smith: The UK Border Agency was not formed in the financial year to which the question relates, therefore cannot provide the required information. I refer the hon. and learned Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr. Timms) on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1311W.

Dungavel Detention Centre

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of families held at Dungavel Detention Centre will be included in the pilot scheme to relocate those held at Dungavel to housing outside the centre. [232798]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The UK Border Agency is working with Glasgow city council, the Scottish Refugee Council, the Scottish Executive and other partners to develop an alternative to detention pilot for families in Scotland. The pilot has not yet started but the planning process is at an advanced stage and engagement with the wider external stakeholders community is currently taking place. The pilot will build up over time to allow us to learn and explore alternatives to detention and, I hope, therefore reduce the need for the enforced removals and detention of families by assisting them to make arrangements for voluntary departure. It is intended that the pilot will be up and running in early 2009.

Not all families will go through the pilot. But if it is successful in that more families that are here illegally leave the UK without the need to detain them, the Government will consider expanding the pilot further.

For families that are here illegally and refuse to consider the current options for leaving the UK under their own steam we have no option but to retain the ability to enforce their departure if they choose to defy our laws and the decisions of our independent courts.

Electronic Government

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether mechanisms are in place to monitor the extent to which her Department's *(a)* internal and *(b)* external (i) correspondence and (ii) distribution of publications is carried out electronically. [199187]

Mr. Woolas: All correspondence requiring a ministerial reply, as well as letters and emails from the public addressed to Ministers or to the Home Office and requiring an official reply, is tracked and managed on the Department's correspondence tracking system. That system is not however used to track and manage any other correspondence, including commercial or casework related correspondence, correspondence between Government Departments, and letters addressed to individual members of staff by name. No mechanisms exist to monitor the extent to which all external and internal correspondence is carried out electronically.

Most publications are made available electronically via the Home Office website, but no mechanisms exist to monitor the extent of electronic distribution.

Emergency Services: Scotland

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Scotland on pension changes for the *(a)* police and *(b)* fire and rescue services. [227819]

Mr. Coaker: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary has had no meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland on pension changes for the police and fire rescue services.

Fraud: Credit Cards

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many recorded offences of credit card fraud there were in each year since 1997; what the estimated cost was of these offences; and what percentage of these offences resulted in a conviction. [230589]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not collected centrally. The Home Office recorded crime statistics cannot separately identify offences specifically relating to credit card fraud. Such offences are encompassed in a larger category of Fraud by False Representation involving Cheque, Plastic Card and Online Bank Accounts. We do incorporate figures on plastic card fraud from the UK Payments Association within our annual crime publication. Their latest figures can be found on page 107 of 'Crime in England and Wales 2007-08' which can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb0708.pdf.

Genetics: Databases

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of people with criminal records who do not have records on the national DNA database. [227347]

Jacqui Smith: The National DNA Database (NDNAD) does not contain any information about criminal records, as this is not necessary for its function of matching DNA from crime scenes with DNA from individuals. Criminal record information is held on the Police National Computer (PNC). Data obtained from the PNC on 31 March 2008 indicate that there were 2,324,879 persons with a record on the PNC added by an English or Welsh force who had a conviction, caution, reprimand or final warning, but no record on NDNAD.

Highly Skilled Migrant Programme

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of students at universities required to pay full fees because of changes to the immigration status of their parents as a result of amendments to the Highly Skilled Migrants Programme. [231587]

Mr. Woolas: Dependants of highly skilled migrants are required to pay full student fees up until the point at which they obtain indefinite leave to remain in the UK.

The November 2006 amendments to the Highly Skilled Migrant Programme, taken in conjunction with the remedies applied as a result of the successful Judicial Review, did not affect the qualifying period for indefinite leave to remain in the UK so therefore did not affect the number of dependants required to pay full fees at UK universities.

Illegal Immigrants: France

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the French government on camps for illegal immigrants. [231727]

Mr. Woolas: On 30 September my right hon. Friend the Member for Birmingham, Hodge Hill (Mr. Byrne) met with Brice Hortefeux in Paris and discussed the problem of illegal migration in Northern France. They welcomed progress on strengthening border security, deterring irregular migrants from coming to the area and agreed to increase efforts to reduce the numbers of irregular migrants in the area. They restated their shared opposition to a permanent humanitarian centre. The UK looks forward to further cooperation with France on joint returns and information campaigns in countries of source and origin to deter migrants from remaining in Northern France.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many illegal immigrants were stopped trying to enter the UK through the Channel tunnel in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997. [231728]

Mr. Woolas: Locally-collated management information shows that in 2007, the UK Border Agency prevented 2,974 illegal attempts to enter the UK through the channel tunnel. The UK Border Agency does not hold the relevant reliable statistical information for the period 1997.

The following table shows that since the end of 2001, there has been a 672 per cent. increase in the detection of illegal attempts to enter the UK through the channel tunnel.

Illegal attempts detected at ports serving the channel tunnel

	Number
2001	[1]385
2002	963
2003	3,396
2004	2,969
2005	2,427
2006	2,160
2007	2,974

[1] Coquelles only

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* immigrant camps in operation on the French coast for people seeking to enter the UK, *(b)* people in such camps and *(c)* children in such camps. [231729]

Mr. Woolas: There are no permanent camps in the Calais area since the closure of Sangatte in 2002. The French police regularly intervene to disrupt areas with high numbers of migrants or where such areas threaten to become durable. The number of people sleeping rough in Northern France is believed to vary greatly and are difficult to estimate. However between January and September 2006 there was an 88 per cent. fall in the number of clandestine entrants arriving in Kent compared to the same period in 2002. On the question of children, the French have in place specific procedures for protecting children, and provide particular support to children via their equivalent local authorities in the area.

Immigration Controls

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to consult on the future of the long residence rules, as stated on 7 July. [224695]

Mr. Woolas: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 268W.

Immigration: EU Law

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the UK's responsibilities are under the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum agreed at the recent meeting of the European Council. [231731]

Mr. Woolas: The Migration Pact is a political statement which reaffirms priorities on immigration and asylum for the EU and member states. It contains statements of principle to which EU member states collectively should have regard in EU policy-making, such as a political commitment to avoid mass regularisation. We welcome the messages on returns, strong borders and combating illegal immigration. We also welcome the emphasis on legal migration that meets the needs of our countries.

The pact is not a legislative text and subsequent proposals for legislation on immigration and asylum resulting from the pact will be subject to the UK's Opt In Protocol.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what provisions exist in the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum to help share the burden of immigration more fairly amongst member states. [231732]

Mr. Woolas: The Migration Pact promotes a number of ways to help show solidarity in dealing with immigration and asylum, including cooperation between member states in controlling illegal immigration. The pact also includes the possibility of continuing arrangements for intra EU relocation of recognised refugees for those member states which are faced with specific and disproportionate pressures on their national asylum systems. Any intra EU relocation of refugees will be on a voluntary basis. The EU Solidarity Mechanism funds will continue to support any burden sharing.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the timetable is for developing a common asylum and immigration policy as a result of the European Pact on Immigration and Asylum; and if she will make a statement. [231733]

Mr. Woolas: The Migration Pact itself does not lay down a timetable for a common European asylum and immigration policy, but sets out a series of commitments for member states and the EU as a whole.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions have taken place with other EU member states on the proposed blue card immigration system and its potential effect on the UK. [231734]

Mr. Woolas: The blue card directive was discussed, without agreement, at the JHA Council on 25 September. On 22 October the directive was agreed at the COREPER ambassadors meeting and political agreement is likely to be reached at the November JHA Council.

Given that we have decided not to opt into the directive, any movement rights between member states obtained by a third country national through it would not apply to the UK.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the proposed Europe-wide blue card immigration system would supersede existing immigration controls, with particular reference to the points-based immigration system; and if she will make a statement. [231735]

Mr. Woolas: The UK is introducing its points based system as a fundamental part of delivering our improved immigration system. We have concluded that the blue card directive is not as flexible as the PBS. The UK decided not to opt in to the directive. For further details on the blue card I refer the right hon. Member to the Explanatory Memorandum deposited on 11 July 2008.

Immigration: Fees and Charges

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the scale was of fees for processing applications for *(a)* indefinite leave to remain and *(b)* further leave to remain in each of the last three years. [231506]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* The following table lists the fees for an application made by post for indefinite leave to remain and leave to remain (non-student) in each of the last three years.

£

	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09
Indefinite Leave to Remain	335	750	750
Leave to Remain (non-student)	335	595	595

Immigration: Manpower

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of UK Border Agency staff have been allocated to the processing of leave to remain applications in each of the last five years. [231507]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 29 October 2008]:* Details of the number of staff allocated to processing leave to remain applications are not held.

Annual estimates of the number of staff allocated to processing charged leave to remain applications are however, made to support production of memorandum trading accounts. The table below provides the estimated proportion of UK Border Agency staff allocated for trading account purposes in each of the last five years:

	Estimated staffing allocated LTR MTA	*Total UKBA staffing*	*Percentage allocated to charged LTR processing (rounded)*
2007-08	1,500	18,100	8
2006-07	1,300	18,800	7
2005-06	1,100	17,200	6
2004-05	1,000	16,900	6
2003-04	900	14,900	6

The figures above are based upon internal management information and may be subject to change.

Mujahedin-e Khalq

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent meetings she has had with her European counterparts on the subject of the People's Mujaheddin Organisation of Iran in light of the ruling of the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg in Case T-256/07 on 23 October 2008. [232318]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Home Secretary has had no meetings with her European counterparts on the People's Mujaheddin Organisation of Iran since the European Court of First Instance in Luxembourg handed down its ruling in Case T-256/07 on 23 October 2008.

Offensive Weapons

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were convicted of offences involving *(a)* firearms and *(b)* knives after handing themselves into the police in each of the last 10 years, broken down by (i) offence and (ii) police force area. [229283]

Jacqui Smith: The requested information is not available centrally.

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the detection rate for offences involving knives was in each of the last 10 years, broken down by *(a)* offence and *(b)* police force area. [229399]

Jacqui Smith: The requested data are not collected centrally on the dataset for serious offences involving sharp instruments.

Information available from the Homicide Index relates to offences currently recorded as homicide where a sharp instrument was used and there is a current suspect. Data from 1997-98 up to and including 2006-07 are given in the following table.

Offences currently recorded as homicides[1] where a sharp instrument[2] was used and there is a current suspect, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3,4]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide									
Police force area	*Police force name*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
North East Region	Cleveland	1	1	3	5	3	3	3	3	3	3
	Durham	3	2	—	1	2	3	—	2	3	5
	Northumbria	11	5	9	5	4	8	8	6	7	10
North West Region	Cheshire	3	3	—	—	3	2	5	3	7	3
	Cumbria	2	1	5	3	1	2	1	1	—	—
	Greater Manchester	15	14	10	13	23	18	16	15	11	10
	Lancashire	6	2	1	15	4	10	12	11	1	4
	Merseyside	7	11	6	13	3	10	10	13	10	10

Offences currently recorded as homicides[1] where a sharp instrument[2] was used and there is a current suspect, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3,4]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide									
Police force area	*Police force name*	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Yorkshire and the Humber Region	**Humberside**	2	2	2	2	3	5	8	3	1	7
	North Yorkshire	1	—	1	—	—	—	1	3	2	—
	South Yorkshire	2	2	4	4	5	7	2	7	6	3
	West Yorkshire	12	12	7	8	11	12	6	13	11	10
East Midlands Region	**Derbyshire**	2	1	2	1	4	2	3	2	2	3
	Leicestershire	1	1	—	3	2	4	9	3	3	5
	Lincolnshire	—	1	2	—	1	2	2	—	—	3
	Northamptonshire	2	2	1	3	2	5	1	—	6	6
	Nottinghamshire	3	6	5	4	6	3	6	6	7	7
West Midlands Region	**Staffordshire**	4	4	2	—	1	—	3	3	2	4
	Warwickshire	—	2	1	—	1	2	2	3	1	5
	West Mercia	3	3	1	3	5	2	5	3	—	3
	West Midlands	3	16	14	7	19	15	22	20	21	14
East of England Region	**Bedfordshire**	3	2	1	2	7	1	1	4	3	3
	Cambridgeshire	1	1	4	—	1	2	5	1	2	2
	Essex	1	4	9	2	10	7	5	—	4	8
	Hertfordshire	2	1	5	4	3	4	3	4	3	6
	Norfolk	—	5	2	4	1	—	3	1	1	3
	Suffolk	—	—	—	3	2	—	2	2	3	2
London Region	**City of London**	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
	Metropolitan Police	57	47	63	63	58	56	56	58	54	56
South East Region	**Hampshire**	1	3	5	3	7	8	3	7	4	6
	Kent	7	3	7	4	10	6	4	4	7	4
	Surrey	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	4	3	—
	Sussex	4	4	5	5	6	8	2	8	4	2
	Thames Valley	7	7	8	3	9	12	3	6	7	5
South West Region	**Avon and Somerset**	3	4	5	3	3	4	4	3	2	3
	Devon and Cornwall	7	5	1	5	6	2	3	10	5	5
	Dorset	1	1	1	3	—	3	6	—	—	—
	Gloucestershire	1	1	3	—	3	3	2	2	—	2
	Wiltshire	2	—	1	—	3	2	2	3	1	1
Wales	**Dyfed Powys**	—	2	—	1	—	3	—	—	2	1
	Gwent	—	1	1	2	2	2	—	4	1	2
	North Wales	2	—	2	1	2	3	—	5	2	1
	South Wales	9	9	6	3	10	1	3	4	2	7
British Transport Police		—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Offences currently recorded as homicides[1] where a sharp instrument[2] was used and there is a current suspect, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3, 4]

		Year offence initially recorded as homicide									
Police force area	Police force name	1997-98	1998-99	1999-2000	2000-01	2001-02	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07
England and Wales		192	192	206	202	248	243	233	250	214	234

[1] As at 12 November 2007 figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts, or as further information becomes available.

[2] Homicides involving any sharp instrument, including knives.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[4] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many incidents of violence against the person involving a knife were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 of the population for (i) England, (ii) the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2008; [231455]

(2) how many incidents of violence against the person where a fatality has occurred as a result of a knife wound were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 of the population for (i) England, (ii) the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2008. [231459]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Available data on serious offences involving knives and sharp instruments are available only for England and Avon and Somerset relating to 2007-08, and are given in table A.

The number of homicides involving sharp instruments recorded from 1997-98 up to and including 2006-07 is shown in table B.

Data collected centrally for both of these data series cannot be broken down lower than police force area level.

Table A: Number of serious[1] offences involving a knife or sharp instrument, recorded by the police, and offences per 100,000 population-. England and Avon and Somerset, 2007-08

	Total of selected serious offences[2]	Offences per 100,000 population
England	20,985	41
Avon and Somerset	360	23

[1] Other offences exist that are not included in this table that may include the use of knife or sharp instrument. 'Offences involving a knife' refers to the use of a knife or sharp instrument.

[2] Total selected serious offences only included in the: attempted murder, wounding with intent to do GBH, wounding or inflicting GBH i.e. without intent, robbery of business property and robbery of personal property.

Table B: Offences currently recorded as homicides[1] where a sharp instrument[2] was used and there is a current suspect, 1997-98 to 2006-07[3, 4]

	England		Avon and Somerset	
	Number of offences	Offences per 100,000 population	Number of offences	Offences per 100,000 population
1997-98	191	0.39	3	0.20
1998-99[2]	189	0.38	5	0.34
1999-00	204	0.41	5	0.34
2000-01	206	0.41	3	0.20
2001-02[3]	247	0.49	4	0.26
2002-03	255	0.52	4	0.27
2003-04	239	0.48	4	0.27
2004-05	246	0.49	4	0.27
2005-06	212	0.42	2	0.13
2006-07	237	0.47	3	0.20

[1] As at 12 November 2007;figures are subject to revision as cases are dealt with by the police and by the courts or as further information becomes available.

[2] Homicides involving any sharp instrument, including knives.

[3] Offences are shown according to the year in which the police initially recorded the offence as homicide. This is not necessarily the year in which the incident took place or the year in which any court decision was made.

[4] Data for 2007-08 are scheduled to be published in January 2009.

Offensive Weapons: Retail Trade

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to businesses which sell knives and blades *(a)* over the internet and *(b)* through catalogues on compliance with the requirements of (i) section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 and (ii) the Offensive Weapons Act 1996. [232516]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: In November 2007 the Home Office issued guidance to retailers on compliance with section 141A of the Criminal Justice Act 1988 which made it illegal from 1 October 2007 to sell knives and certain articles with a blade or point to anyone under the age of 18. The ban applies to sales over the internet and through catalogues.

Mr. Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will examine the adequacy of controls on the advertising and sale of souvenir knives, blades and axes *(a)* over the internet and *(b)* through catalogues; and if she will make a statement. [232520]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The laws that control the advertising and sale of knives and blades apply to the internet and catalogue sales as they do to advertising and sale through any other retail outlet. The Government are committed to working with all businesses to ensure that they comply with the law and to encourage tight controls, particularly on issues like age-verification.

Police: Bureaucracy

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of their time police officers spent on average *(a)* completing paperwork and *(b)* on patrol in each of the last five years. [231496]

Mr. Coaker: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given to the hon. Member for Bury St. Edmunds (Mr. Ruffley) on 10 December 2007, *Official Report,* column 91W. Information for 2007-08 will be published shortly on the Home Office website, as part of the release of information relating to police performance 2007-08.

Police: CCTV

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to reimburse all or part of the costs to local authorities of installing CCTV technologies used by the police. [232154]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Government have no plans to provide further funding for local authorities to install CCTV. Much of the CCTV currently in place in town centres was funded by the Government through the Crime Reduction Programme between 1999 and 2003, which provided £170 million across England and Wales.

Police: Ethnic Groups

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers at the rank of *(a)* constable, *(b)* sergeant, *(c)* inspector, *(d)* chief inspector, *(e)* superintendent, *(f)* chief superintendent and *(g)* Association of Chief Police Officer ranks were from an ethnic minority background in each year since 1997, broken down by police force. [227461]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The available data are given in the tables placed in the House Library.

The requested data are also published as part of the annual Police Service Strength England and Wales Statistical Bulletin. The 2008 bulletin can be found at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policeorg1.html

and previous years' bulletins are available in the House of Commons Library. The annual Home Secretary's Race Employment Targets report may also be of interest in relation to the question asked:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/race-equality-targets-2006-07

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of police officers recruited into each force in each year since 1997 were from an ethnic minority background. [227463]

Jacqui Smith *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* The available data are given in the following table.

Police officer minority ethnic recruits[1] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2007-08[2] (FTE)[3] and recruits as percentage of total strength

	Minority ethnic recruits						ME recruits as percentage of total recruits					
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	2	4	2	4	1	1	5	2	2	3	1	1
Bedfordshire	4	5	12	9	0	10	4	3	11	17	0	13
Cambridgeshire	5	6	6	1	0	0	7	6	6	1	0	0
Cheshire	1	6	0	3	2	0	1	4	0	3	2	0
Cleveland	1	2	2	6	0	0	1	1	2	5	0	0
Cumbria	0	4	1	0	1	1	0	4	2	0	2	2
Derbyshire	6	1	1	3	6	6	4	1	2	5	7	5
Devon and Cornwall	2	2	1	1	0	2	1	2	1	0	0	2
Dorset	1	1	0	0	1	0	1	1	0	0	2	0
Durham	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	4	1	1	0	0
Dyfed-Powys	1	0	0	1	2	0	14	0	0	2	4	0
Essex	0	3	7	7	9	10	0	1	3	3	3	4
Gloucestershire	0	3	2	1	1	0	0	3	3	1	1	0
Greater Manchester	2	41	32	11	13	22	2	4	14	4	4	5
Gwent	1	2	0	2	4	0	2	3	0	3	6	0
Hampshire	6	7	5	13	9	4	2	2	2	5	4	2
Hertfordshire	7	14	5	8	6	11	3	5	3	5	3	10
Humberside	1	4	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	0
Kent	2	4	8	6	8	23	1	1	4	3	3	15
Lancashire	14	15	6	5	11	10	6	5	4	3	7	5
Leicestershire	6	18	6	9	17	13	5	[illegible]	5	9	20	13
Lincolnshire	1	1	2	2	0	0	2	2	3	4	0	0
London, City of	4	7	8	3	1	0	9	13	21	7	3	0
Merseyside	3	7	10	7	19	5	3	4	3	4	6	3
Metropolitan Police	305	500	252	166	215	193	13	17	13	16	17	20
Norfolk	2	0	0	0	1	1	3	0	0	0	2	2
Northamptonshire	2	7	6	1	3	5	4	7	6	1	4	6
Northumbria	6	1	2	5	2	1	4	1	1	4	2	1
North Wales	0	0	1	0	1	2	0	0	1	0	2	5

Police officer minority ethnic recruits[1] to police forces from 2002-03 to 2007-08[2] (FTE)[3] and recruits as percentage of total strength

	Minority ethnic recruits						*ME recruits as percentage of total recruits*					
	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
North Yorkshire	2	2	0	0	1	0	2	2	0	0	1	—
Nottinghamshire	6	7	5	2	1	3	7	5	4	4	2	6
South Wales	4	3	3	5	7	2	2	2	3	4	6	4
South Yorkshire	3	9	5	5	7	4	3	3	2	3	4	4
Staffordshire	0	2	3	3	1	4	0	2	3	4	1	10
Suffolk	1	3	0	3	2	1	1	3	0	7	3	7
Surrey	8	3	1	7	19	12	9	3	1	6	12	10
Sussex	0	4	6	7	2	2	0	1	3	3	1	1
Thames Valley	9	20	14	15	12	17	3	4	4	4	5	7
Warwickshire	4	1	5	10	3	0	7	2	8	14	5	—
West Mercia	1	2	2	1	2	1	0	2	2	1	2	1
West Midlands	48	49	43	54	35	45	10	12	9	12	8	9
West Yorkshire	12	16	35	8	15	18	4	5	6	5	6	5
Wiltshire	2	5	2	1	0	1	3	4	3	2	0	2
Total	485	795	502	396	441	430	6.5	7.8	6.2	6.1	6.8	7.8

[1] Recruits included those officers joining as police standard direct recruits and those who were previously special constables. This excludes police officers on transfers from other forces and those rejoining.

[2] Financial year runs 1 April to 31 March inclusive. Data are not available prior to 2002-03.

[3] Full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.

Police: Internet

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have posted ward and sub-ward level crime maps of their areas on the internet. [232231]

Mr. Coaker: Five forces currently produce monthly crime maps for the public; West Midlands, West Yorkshire, Lancashire, Hampshire and the Metropolitan Police Service.

West Midlands and the Metropolitan Police Service are publishing interactive sub-ward neighbourhood level crime maps.

Lancashire constabulary are producing maps at ward level, Hampshire at district level and West Yorkshire at beat level.

ACPO are working to ensure that crime mapping is available from all forces in England and Wales to at least ward level by December 2008 as part of the Policing Pledge that was announced in the Policing Green Paper "From the neighbourhood to the national" in July 2008.

Police: Manpower

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the ratio of police to members of the public was in each constituency in each year since 1997; [231493]

(2) how many police officers per 100,000 residents there were in each police authority in England in each year since 1997. [231494]

Mr. Coaker: The available data are given in the following table. Police Personnel data are not collected by parliamentary constituency.

Police Officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008

Police force	*1997[3]*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001[4]*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Avon and Somerset	204	203	203	197	197	205	213	229	225	226	224	218
Bedfordshire	200	197	189	185	184	189	198	210	215	213	207	204
Cambridgeshire	188	184	179	172	179	187	196	197	194	196	187	183
Cheshire	209	208	211	204	204	209	217	224	223	223	225	218
Cleveland	261	266	255	252	253	263	294	314	305	308	315	303
Cumbria	233	237	229	220	213	224	237	254	257	256	255	251
Derbyshire	187	184	182	183	187	189	210	216	213	212	209	212
Devon and Cornwall	186	192	186	182	187	192	204	208	212	219	216	218
Dorset	189	192	186	189	196	198	205	209	211	216	217	216
Durham	240	249	258	256	263	266	281	288	293	288	285	272
Essex	197	193	190	183	178	181	186	192	198	203	203	203
Gloucestershire	205	198	197	200	209	209	219	229	230	228	229	234
Greater Manchester	268	270	265	264	268	279	298	323	321	318	314	315
Hampshire	198	199	197	193	193	195	208	211	212	211	215	214

Police Officers[1] (FTE)[2] per 100,000 of the population for by police force, as at 31 March 1997 to 31 March 2008

Police force	*1997*[3]	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*[4]	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Hertfordshire	205	202	198	201	184	174	191	204	206	208	210	204
Humberside	230	228	223	219	217	234	244	256	255	251	251	248
Kent	210	209	204	203	209	210	221	228	227	227	229	227
Lancashire	228	229	228	223	228	231	239	252	251	253	252	254
Leicestershire	211	214	215	215	218	224	232	246	246	241	237	233
Lincolnshire	196	193	184	179	191	189	191	189	185	183	183	175
London, City of[5]	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
Merseyside	296	297	298	290	291	294	302	303	318	315	325	331
Metropolitan Police[5]	367	356	352	341	351	366	404	420	433	428	426	430
Norfolk	185	184	176	175	178	183	189	190	192	193	191	190
Northamptonshire	196	193	186	181	186	194	194	198	201	207	200	196
Northumbria	256	263	269	266	272	278	290	294	294	291	283	285
North Yorkshire	183	186	181	173	175	188	193	203	206	216	217	202
Nottinghamshire	225	225	216	214	214	226	239	245	245	243	235	224
South Yorkshire	242	244	243	243	245	246	252	261	260	259	256	248
Staffordshire	209	217	211	204	201	201	212	218	220	219	219	214
Suffolk	180	179	179	171	168	177	188	196	195	191	196	188
Surrey	209	207	212	227	192	184	182	183	184	184	183	179
Sussex	211	203	191	188	188	190	203	206	205	207	205	201
Thames Valley	180	183	180	178	175	177	186	195	198	202	199	194
Warwickshire	186	185	180	178	182	190	198	197	195	198	199	198
West Mercia	183	180	180	166	171	176	196	202	203	202	205	210
West Midlands	270	271	278	274	283	293	307	311	316	318	318	324
West Yorkshire	247	244	236	228	228	230	242	254	271	270	270	269
Wiltshire	195	195	192	185	184	189	190	198	198	196	192	190
Dyfed-Powys	212	210	215	217	219	234	237	236	237	237	236	237
Gwent	275	222	224	227	229	239	244	248	259	264	268	266
North Wales	208	213	212	213	220	228	234	243	250	242	238	234
South Wales	223	242	241	236	250	259	273	275	273	271	273	264
England and Wales	241	240	237	233	234	240	254	264	267	267	266	264

[1] This table is based on full-time equivalent figures that have been rounded to the nearest whole number. Because of rounding, there may be an apparent discrepancy between totals and the sums of the constituent items.
[2] Figures up to 31 March 2002 exclude staff on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave. The figures for 31 March 2003 onwards figures include those on career breaks or maternity/paternity leave.
[3] Boundary changes on 1 April 1996 transferred resources for the policing of the Rhymney Valley from South Wales Police to Gwent Police.
[4] Boundary changes on 1 April 2000 transferred some resources from the Metropolitan Police to Essex, Hertfordshire and Surrey police forces.
[5] Officers per 100,000 population for City of London and Metropolitan Police are combined.

Police: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what the average payment per person to members of the police pension scheme was in 2008; [232824]

(2) how many individuals belong to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new police pension scheme. [232825]

Mr. Coaker: The estimated average annual police pension paid to both former officers and dependants was £13,400 in 2007-08 (rounded to the nearest £100). This estimate is based on total spending on police pensions in England and Wales in 2007-08 and an estimate of the number of police pensioners at 1 April 2008 from the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Police Estimates Statistics 2008-09.

Information on the number of members of the police pension schemes is not held centrally. However, virtually all serving officers are members of one of the schemes. Figures in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin series "Police Service Strength, England and Wales" (available at

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/policerog1.html

and in the Library) suggest that there were 12,266 officers eligible for membership of the new police pension scheme 2006 and 129,593 eligible for membership of the police pension scheme 1987 at 31 March 2008.

Repatriation: Finance

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the average cost of *(a)* assisting an individual to return voluntarily to their country of origin and *(b)* deporting an individual to the same country. [231408]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Assisted voluntary returns have been identified as a cost effective method of returning people to their country of origin by the National Audit Office report on 'Returning

failed asylum applicants'. (Report by the Comptroller and Auditor General HC 76, Session 2005-2006, 19 July 2005) which noted that the cost of a voluntary return was approximately 10 per cent. of the cost of an enforced removal.

The average cost of a return under the Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants (AVRIM) programme is approximately £900.

(b) The National Audit Office report put the cost of an enforced removal at £11,000.

Roads: Accidents

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many road accident frauds were reported to the police in each of the last five years. [232317]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Such frauds cannot be separately identified in the Home Office recorded crime statistics.

Telecommunications: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether local authorities will be given access to the database of communications that will be introduced via the forthcoming Communications Data Bill. [232674]

Mr. Coaker: I have announced that, prior to any legislation, we will be launching a consultation on options for maintaining the ability of public authorities to have appropriate access to communications data, in the face of the challenge of changing technology.

Travelling People

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on county police forces moving transit Travellers to suitable sites in neighbouring local authorities but within the same police authority. [231005]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 28 October 2008]*: Government policy on powers to deal with unauthorised encampments by transit Travellers is set out in the "Guide to effective use of enforcement powers" issued in 2006 jointly by the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister.

The Government agree with the conclusions of the Final Report of the Independent Task Group on Site Provision and Enforcement for Gypsies and Travellers published in December 2007 that existing enforcement powers are sufficient, and that the key to effective enforcement is adequate site provision. A change to powers to enable police to move transit Travellers to suitable sites in neighbouring local authorities risks de-incentivising adequate site provision.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Banks: Regulation

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will review the recommendations of the Better Regulation Executive on banking in light of the events in the banking sector in mid September. [229954]

Ian Pearson: The Better Regulation Executive has made no specific recommendations on banking. It will continue in its role supporting and challenging Government Departments and regulators, including HM Treasury and the Financial Services Authority, to deliver regulation which is effective, risk-based and proportionate.

Financial Institutions: Public Appointments

Mr. Djanogly: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the directors appointed by the Government to the boards of *(a)* Northern Rock and *(b)* Bradford and Bingley are subject to the duties on directors set out in sections 170 to 177 of the Companies Act 2006. [230780]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 27 October 2008]*: The directors are subject to the usual provisions of the Companies Act on general duties of directors.

Financial Services: EC Action

Ann Winterton: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 357W, on financial services: EU action, which European Union legislative instruments implement mark to market in the full range of its applications, including trading in securities and other financial instruments. [232352]

Ian Pearson: Under Regulation (EC) No 1606/2002 of the European Parliament and of the Council on the application of international accounting standards, companies governed by the law of an EU member state, whose securities are admitted to trading on a regulated market in any EU member state, must prepare their consolidated accounts in conformity with international accounting standards (IAS) adopted by the European Commission under the Regulation. Under UK law implementing an option in the Regulation such companies may prepare their individual accounts, and other companies may prepare either individual or consolidated accounts in accordance with EC adopted IAS.

Under Commission Regulation (EC) No 1725/2003, IAS 39 (financial instruments: recognition and measurement) and IFRS 7 (financial instruments: disclosure) were adopted. That Commission Regulation was amended on 15 October 2008 by Commission Regulation (EC) No 1004/2008.

International Accounting Standard 39, International Financial Reporting Standard 7 and Reclassification of Financial Assets (Amendments to IAS 39 Financial Instruments: Recognition and Measurement and IFRS

7 Financial Instruments: Disclosures) are all published by the International Accounting Standards Board and the EU.

UK companies which do not prepare their accounts in accordance with EC adopted IAS must do so in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (previously the Companies Act 1985) and regulations made under it. Those provisions implement the following EC Directives which contain valuation rules, including valuation on a mark to market basis:

Council Directive 78/660/EEC on the annual accounts of certain types of company

Council Directive 83/349/EEC on consolidated accounts

Council Directive 86/635/EEC on the annual and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions

Council Directive 91/674/EEC on the annual and consolidated accounts of insurance undertakings.

UK companies which do not prepare their accounts in accordance with EC adopted IAS must do so in accordance with the provisions of the Companies Act 2006 (previously the Companies Act 1985) and Regulations made under it. Such companies will follow UK accounting standards. The UK accounting standards covering Financial Instruments, i.e. FRS 26 (IAS 39) Financial Instruments: recognition and measurement and FRS 29 Financial Instruments: disclosures, are fully converged with their IFRS equivalents, and so there should be little difference in the accounting treatment of these items in company financial statements for UK companies using UK GAAP or IFRS.

Petrol: Prices

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps are being taken to seek to ensure the stability of the price of petrol. [illegible]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

Competitive markets are the best means to ensure efficient petrol retailing. The Office of Fair Trading monitors the UK petrol market to ensure competitive pricing. Consumers are best placed to support suppliers who provide lower prices. Ministers have urged consumers to use their power.

The Government charge fuel duty at a fixed rate per litre. Duty currently accounts for approximately half of the retail petrol price (including duty and VAT) and, consequently, petrol prices are considerably less volatile (in percentage change terms) than the underlying prices of wholesale petrol and crude oil.

The Government recognise the recent instability in the oil price and are committed to continuing the dialogue between producers and consumers to enable a better functioning global oil market. Through the work of the Prime Minister's Global Energy Initiative, the London Energy Meeting in December 2008 will bring Energy Ministers together from across the world to discuss these issues.

Postage Stamps: Design

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance he provides to the Royal Mail on stamp design; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. McFadden: Decisions relating to Royal Mail's operational matters, which include decisions on stamp designs, are the direct responsibility of the company.

The company has a well-established process for choosing its stamp designs. Its own researchers examine all major anniversaries over a five-year period and give careful consideration to any suggestions from organisations or members of the public. Royal Mail receives around 2,000 suggestions for stamp designs every year.

The subjects selected for commemoration on stamps are carefully researched and briefs formulated for the company's in-house design team. These specialist staff commission designers, illustrators, photographers and other image makers to respond to the brief, given the unique parameters of a postage stamp. A selection of designs is then reviewed by the company's Stamp Advisory Committee to ensure balance and diversity before the finalised designs are put before Her Majesty the Queen for approval.

Retail Trade

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what business support his Department makes available to the retail sector; what assessment he has made of future trends in demand for such services; and if he will make a statement. [illegible]

Ian Pearson: Retail enterprises, both at start-up and when established, can access a wide range of BERR and other publicly funded business support products via Business Link. Business Link provides impartial information that helps customers diagnose their needs and identify solutions and support providers in the public and private sector. The service can be accessed through the website:

www.businesslink.gov.uk

by telephone on 0845 6009006 or through the network of advisers based in England.

The Government announced on 22 October a package of further support to help small and medium sized businesses to bear the impact of the current global economic challenges, including free "Health Checks" for businesses through Business Link, and advice on financial management, cash flow and securing finance. Details of the full range of measures and how to access them can be obtained from Business Link.

The Department continually assesses the demand for its business support services and through the Business Support Simplification Programme aims to streamline publicly funded business support to make schemes targeted, focused and measurable, so increasing take-up, impact and value for money.

JUSTICE

Antisocial Behaviour: Fixed Penalties

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the Answer of 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 884W, on public order offences: young people, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the evaluation of the pilot project for the use of penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for 10 to 15 year olds; and for what reasons some police forces continue to issue PNDs to juveniles; [222984]

(2) how many penalty notices for disorder have been issued to 10 to 15 year olds in each year since 2005; if he will make a statement on the issuing of penalty notices for disorder to 10 to 15 year olds; what recent assessment he has made of the outcome of the pilot project in the seven pilot police force areas; and when the evaluation of the pilot projects will be published. [226024]

Mr. Hanson: The evaluation report on penalty notices for disorder (PNDs) for 10 to 15-year-olds was published today and copies will be placed in the Libraries of the House. The report will include data covering the number of PNDs issued during the pilots. Some of the police forces involved in the pilots have continued to use PNDs for 10 to 15-year-olds because, as the evaluation shows, they are an effective tool for dealing with certain offences. We continue to discuss the learning from the evaluation report with key stakeholders.

Community Legal Advice

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what cost was incurred in changing the name of Community Legal Service Direct to Community Legal Advice; how much of this cost was spent on advertising the change of name; and if he will make a statement. [232082]

Bridget Prentice: The Legal Services Commission (LSC) changed the name of Community Legal Service Direct to Community Legal Advice (CLA) in November 2007. The LSC spent £8,836 on producing the Community Legal Advice logo and the guidelines for using it. The LSC did not use paid-for advertising to promote the name change.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason Community Legal Service Direct changed its name to Community Legal Advice; and if he will make a statement. [232086]

Bridget Prentice: On 12 November 2007, Community Legal Service Direct changed its name to Community Legal Advice for two main reasons.

1. Client research demonstrated that clients wanted a clearer name that better described the service offered. Various names were tested with clients. The most popular was 'Community Legal Advice'.

2. The LSC wanted to develop a clear brand, based on a single name, for both the existing telephone and website services, and the new Community Legal Advice centres and networks being set up across the country. The single name makes it clear to clients that all the advice services come from the same reliable source, whether they are delivered by telephone, website, leaflet or face to face. It also gives the LSC greater flexibility for the future to add new ways of delivering Community Legal Advice services without having to develop any new branding.

Community Legal Advice: Marketing

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the *(a)* total cost and *(b)* cost per unit of (i) production and (ii) distribution of the Legal Services Commission's Community Legal Advice leaflet stands was; and if he will make a statement. [232083]

Bridget Prentice: The cost of producing the Community Legal Advice desk-top leaflet stands was £16,832 at a unit cost of £8.42 per stand.

The Community Legal Advice team holds a contract with a distributor to distribute marketing materials, leaflets and leaflet stands. It is not possible to provide the total cost or cost per unit of distribution for the leaflet, as they may, for example, have been distributed as part of other orders. In addition, some LSC regional offices may have sent out the stands as part of their business mail.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many requests there have been from hon. Members for the Legal Services Commission's Community Legal Advice leaflet stands to be distributed to their constituency offices; to how many hon. Members the leaflet stand has been sent; what cost was incurred in distributing the stand to hon. Members' constituency offices; and if he will make a statement. [232084]

Bridget Prentice: Between November 2007 and October 2008, there were 47 requests from MPs' constituency offices for Community Legal Advice stands across England and Wales. 151 stands were sent to MPs' offices. A letter of introduction and explanation was included with the stands sent to MPs. The stands hold approximately 150 leaflets which cover a wide range of topics to help people understand more about the law and how to access their rights.

It is not possible to provide the total cost or cost per unit of distribution for the leaflet, as they may, for example, have been distributed as part of other orders. In addition, some LSC regional offices may have sent out the stands as part of their business mail.

Peter Luff: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the Legal Services Commission's Community Legal Advice leaflet stands have been distributed since Community Legal Service Direct changed its name to Community Legal Advice; and if he will make a statement. [232085]

Bridget Prentice: Around 730 Community Legal Advice leaflet stands have been distributed by the LSC since November 2007.

Coroners

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the target times set for coroners' courts in England to complete inquests are; and if he will make a statement. [232663]

Bridget Prentice: There are no set target times for coroners in England to complete inquests. It is the responsibility of individual coroners, who are independent judicial office holders appointed by local authorities, to complete inquests as expeditiously as circumstances allow. In 2007 the average time taken to complete an inquest in England was 25 weeks.

Courts: Offensive Weapons

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued to courts on the action to be taken should a knife be discovered on a person attending a court hearing. [219327]

Mr. Straw: The powers of court security officers governing the seizure and retention of items, and of exclusion from courts, are derived from sections 53 to 55 of the Courts Act 2003.

All knives, of whatever length, are among those items which Her Majesty's Courts Service class as prohibited items and are not permitted inside any venue where court business takes place. All bladed items must be surrendered to a court security officer and if not willingly surrendered, they may be seized by those officers. If the item is not surrendered or seized, the bearer will be excluded from entry into the court or removed.

The police are informed of all offensive weapons surrendered or seized and court security officers follow the advice given by them. As possession of a folding pen-knife with a blade of three inches or less is not currently a criminal offence, the court security officers would not normally advise the police of these items being retained. Evidence from one Crown Court is that about 50 per cent. of the pen knives which were seized but later returned because they were within the legal definition belonged to lawyers attending the court.

If a court security officer reasonably believes that a bladed item is evidence of, or in relation to, an offence, such as an illegally carried knife, then they contact the police as soon as possible after the item has been surrendered or seized. The court security officers must provide the police with information about the item, the person carrying it and, if appropriate, any difficulties they had in obtaining the item.

The court security officer will then follow the advice of the police who may attend, dispose of the item, and take any other appropriate investigative action.

If a person requests the return of an item when he/she leaves the court building, but the court security officer has reasonable grounds to believe that the item may be evidence of, or in relation to an offence, then the person is told that under section 55(2)(b), the officer has the power to retain it for up to 24 hours to seek advice from the police.

Items that are lawful to possess, such as folding penknives with the permitted length of blade, are returned when the owner asks for them.

The Courts Act itself gives no power to retain any items beyond either the 24-hour permitted period or the later point when the owner returns to collect it, whether legally or illegally carried. If the police do not collect the item within the permitted period or at any rate before the owner returns to collect it, then the article must be returned.

The policy is being actively reviewed and Her Majesty's Court Service is launching a programme to discourage all court users from bringing any kind of bladed item to court. This includes a vigorous information campaign to all major stakeholders, including volunteer groups, and clear public information displayed in courts. We are also looking at formalising the existing process by which any bladed items that are currently lawful are returned to owners when they leave the court building but in sealed packages, which must be signed for or by post. An incremental rollout of this process to gauge the impact of this covering six courts in England was launched on 1 November and, if this is a success, will be implemented nationally shortly thereafter.

Departmental ICT

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value has been of his Department's IT contracts in the last 12 months; with whom these contracts have been awarded; and what the value was of each contract. [228859]

Maria Eagle: The following IT contracts have been awarded in the last 12 months:

Secure e-mail, awarded to Cable and Wireless in August 2008, for 21 months, at a value of £2 million per annum.

Portal messaging and Support, awarded to Atos Origin in March 2008, for two years, at a value of £2 million per annum.

Support for Court administrative systems, awarded to VP Treen Ltd. in October 2008, for three years, at a value of £225,000 per annum.

Enforcement: Per Capita Costs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to recover the costs of *(a)* enforcement and *(b)* other activities borne by his Department following the implementation of new legislation sponsored by other departments. [232889]

Mr. Wills: It is Government policy that all Departments and agencies exercising statutory powers and making rules with a general effect on others should produce an impact assessment (IA). The basic aim of IAs is that those proposing new policies or arrangements should take account of all resulting costs, including those falling on others inside or outside central Government.

The Ministry of Justice has its own procedures to control these "downstream costs" from other Government Departments' legislative programmes in recent years. The Ministry of Justice will not authorise clearance at Cabinet Committee level, without a reassurance that agreement on resulting court (tribunals and judiciary) and legal aid costs has been achieved, beforehand.

House of Lords: Reform

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his timetable is for further reform of the House of Lords. [232708]

Mr. Wills: The White Paper on Lords reform was published on 25 July 2008 following cross-party talks. Building on the proposals in the White Paper, the Government intend to develop detailed proposals to be put to the electorate as a manifesto commitment at the next general election. Legislation would then be possible in the next Parliament.

Illegal Broadcasting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he and his officials have had with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the introduction of guidelines for the offence of illegal broadcasting; and if he will make a statement. [232147]

Maria Eagle: No discussions have been had with the Sentencing Guidelines Council on the introduction of guidelines for the offence of illegal broadcasting.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people have received the maximum sentence on conviction for illegal broadcasting in each of the last 10 years; [232148]

(2) what steps he is taking to reduce repeat offending by those convicted of offences relating to illegal radio broadcasts. [232149]

Maria Eagle: The offence referred to is a provision in section 8 of the Wireless Telegraphy Act 2006—unauthorised use etc. of wireless telegraphy station or apparatus.

According to the court proceedings database held by the Department, no persons have been convicted for unauthorised use etc of wireless telegraphy station or apparatus as a principal offence.

Information Commissioner: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Information Commissioner's budget will be in each of the next three financial years. [232693]

Mr. Wills: The Office of the Information Commissioner (ICO) is funded from two sources. The notification fees paid by data controllers fund the ICO's data protection work. The Commissioner retains these fees with agreement from my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) and the Treasury.

It is not possible to give figures for fee income for the next three financial years as this is dependent on the number of data controllers who renew their notification or register for the first time. In the financial year 2007-08 the ICO received fee income of £10,817,621.

The Ministry of Justice wants to ensure that the Information Commissioner has the resources necessary to be able to carry out his duties under the Data Protection Act effectively. This summer, we consulted on changes to the fee structure to fund recent and proposed changes to the Information Commissioner's powers and responsibilities. We will announce the outcome of this consultation shortly.

Funding for the Information Commissioner's freedom of information responsibilities is by grant in aid from my Department. The indicative baseline for the Information Commissioner is £5 million for the current spending review period. However, we keep the position under review and have provided the Information Commissioner with an additional £500,000 for the current financial year.

Land Registry

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the answer to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar of 19 October 2006, *Official Report*, columns 1391-92W, on the Land Registry, how many commonhold residential developments there are in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wales. [232866]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry's records show, as at 30 October 2008, there are:

(a) 12 commonhold residential developments comprising 97 units, of which 78 units have been registered in the name of individual unit holders in England; and

(b) One commonhold residential development, comprising 24 units, of which seven units have been registered in the name of individual unit holders in Wales.

In researching this reply it has been identified that part of 19 October 2006 reply, *Official Report*, columns 1391-92W, was incorrect. In respect of Wales at that time the number of units was 24 and the number registered in the name of an individual was four.

Offenders: Armed Forces

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of former armed service personnel *(a)* in custody and *(b)* on parole. [232966]

Mr. Hanson: The information requested is not available. However, data from nationally representative surveys of some 2,000 sentenced prisoners near release conducted in 2001, 2003 and 2004 show the proportion of prisoners who had previously served in the armed forces as 6 per cent., 4 per cent. and 5 per cent. respectively.

Prisoner Escapes

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have escaped while under escort from prison in the last 24 months; and how many of those escapes were from *(a)* private taxis and *(b)* custom built cellular vehicles. [232249]

Mr. Hanson: No prisoners being transported by taxi in 2006-07 and 2007-08 have escaped. Taxis are rarely used for transporting prisoners to and from court or for inter-prison transfers. On occasions they may be used for emergency transport, including hospital admission where an ambulance is not appropriate.

A risk assessment is conducted to ensure that the use of a taxi is appropriate.

Data contained in the following table show the number of prisoners who (a) have escaped from escort between April 2006 and March 2008 broken down by (b) private taxi hire (c) custom built cellular vehicles.

Financial year	*HM Prison Service escort*	*Contractor escort*	*Private taxi hire*	*Contractor secure cellular vehicle*
2006-07	6	19	0	3
2007-08	2	16	0	1

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Further information can be found at the Prison Service website:

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003541prison_escapes_dec_07.pdf

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003542prison_escort_escapes_dec_07.pdf

http://www.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/assets/documents/10003543contracted_escort_escapes_dec_07.pdf

Reoffenders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners were reconvicted and sentenced to another custodial term within three months of leaving prison in each of the last five years. [229291]

Maria Eagle: We do not have figures on reoffending occurring within three months of leaving prison. On an annual basis we publish rates which measure reoffending over a 12 month period. The following table shows the number and proportion of offenders released from custody who committed a reoffence (where the offender was subsequently convicted of this offence at court) and the number and proportion of those who reoffended and given a custodial sentence for this reoffence within a 12 month period.

		Number of releases from prison	*Number of offenders reoffending*	*Percentage of offenders reoffending*	*Number of reoffenders who received a prison sentence*	*Percentage of reoffenders who received a prison sentence*
Q1	2002	15,578	8,574	55.0	3,841	24.7
Q1	2003	14,358	7,738	53.9	3,614	25.1
Q1	2004	15,761	8,185	51.9	3,764	23.9
Q1	2005	14,595	7,165	49.1	3,405	23.3
Q1	2006	14,380	6,686	46.5	3,113	21.6

The latest reoffending statistics, 'Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort', including additional information on frequency and severity of reoffending, were published on 4 September 2008 and can be obtained from the Ministry of Justice website

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingofadults.htm.

It showed that between the 2000 and 2006 cohorts, frequency of reoffending fell by 22.9 per cent. severity of reoffending fell by 11.1 per cent. and the proportion of offenders reoffending fell by 10.7 per cent.

Secure Training Centres: Restraint Techniques

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 33WS, on juvenile secure settings (restraint), what consideration he gave to immediate publication of the report upon receipt. [233356]

Mr. Hanson: Consideration was given to immediate publication of the report before it was received from the co-chairs. It was decided that the report should be published simultaneously with the Government response in order to give people the opportunity to consider the two documents at the same time.

Tenants Rights

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will issue guidelines to the courts to ensure that where a landlord with a buy-to-let mortgage falls into arrears and the lender applies to the courts, the rights and housing needs of any tenant are taken into consideration. [232573]

Bridget Prentice: The Government are fully committed to supporting and maintaining a strong and independent judiciary and, in accordance with that, constitutionally has no powers to issue guidance to them. The Civil Procedure Rules already require that lenders give notice of a claim to legal tenants, providing them with an opportunity to make representations to the court.

Voting Behaviour

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice who the respondents were to his Department's consultation on weekend voting. [232672]

Mr. Wills: There were 940 responses to the Election Day: Weekend Voting consultation, from a broad cross section of those with an interest in electoral matters. Respondents included members of the public, local councils and councillors, faith groups, political groups, those involved in running elections and their representative bodies, and civil society groups. A full list of respondents will be included in the response to the consultation which will be published as soon as practicable.

Young Offender Institutions: Education

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per week were spent on education or training schemes in each young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [232189]

Mr. Hanson: The average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week for each young offender institution (YOI) during the period April to September 2008 (latest figures available[1]) is shown in the following table.

Prison	*Average number of hours spent on education or training activities per prisoner per week*
Ashfield	15.4
Aylesbury	6.1
Brinsford	9.6
Castington	10
Cookham Wood	14.1
Deerbolt	7.9
Feltham	7.5
Glen Parva	5.3
Hindley	12.2
Huntercombe	12.2
Lancaster Farms	9.7
Northallerton	9.8
Portland	5.9
Reading	4.9
Rochester	3.6
Stoke Heath	6.8
Swinfen Hall	8.2
Thorn Cross	11.5
Warren Hill	17
Werrington	19.8
Wetherby	12.2

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

Young Offender Institutions: Sports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many hours per week were spent on sport or other physical activity in each young offender institution in the latest period for which figures are available. [232188]

Mr. Hanson: The average weekly physical education and recreational sports activity per prisoner for young offender institutions (YOIs) during the period April to September 2008 (latest figures available[1]) is shown in the following table. These figures do not include any other time that prisoners may take less structured exercise.

Prison	*Average number of hours spent on sport or other physical activity per prisoner per week*
Ashfield	8.2
Aylesbury	3.5
Brinsford	2.5
Castington	2.6
Cookham Wood	7.7
Deerbolt	4.7
Feltham	3.1
Glen Parva	2.8
Hindley	4.2
Huntercombe	4.5
Lancaster Farms	2.2
Northallerton	3.1
Portland	2
Reading	3.7
Rochester	3
Stoke Heath	3.9
Swinfen Hall	3.1
Thorn Cross	7.3
Warren Hill	2.6
Wellington	4.1
Wetherby	4.4

[1] Data are provisional and subject to ongoing validation.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 6 November 2008

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Shoplifting

5. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Solicitor-General how many prosecutions the Crown Prosecution Service has successfully brought for shoplifting in each of the last three years. [233483]

The Solicitor-General: While Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) records include details of proceedings for theft, they provide no discrete count of offences of shoplifting. The figures in the following table, provided by the Office of Criminal Justice Reform, relate to persons for whom stealing from shops and stalls was recorded as the principle offence.

	Number
2004	68,541
2005	64,076
2006	58,536

Working Practices: De Grazia Report

6. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps the Serious Fraud Office is taking in response to the recommendations of the De Grazia report on its working practices. [233484]

The Solicitor-General: Since the publication of the report in June, the Director of the Serious Fraud Office (SFO) has made a number of changes designed to strengthen the leadership team, improve staff training and to shorten the time it takes to get SFO cases into court.

CPS: Diversity and Equality

7. **Mr. Sharma:** To ask the Solicitor-General what steps she is taking to improve diversity and equality in the staffing of the Crown Prosecution Service. [233485]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) is implementing a comprehensive set of actions to further improve diversity and equality in employment, building on existing progress. Actions are underway in key areas of staff representation, staff engagement, policy development, staff development and support for staff networks.

Vexatious Claims

8. **Richard Ottaway:** To ask the Solicitor-General what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the level of vexatious claims. [233486]

The Solicitor-General: No assessment is made of the level of vexatious litigation in general. But when vexatious claims are made there are various orders the courts can make to restrain such litigation. Among them are orders under section 42 of the Supreme Court Act 1981 for which the Attorney-General alone may apply after the referral of potential cases to her by judges and other interested parties.

Corruption

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's recent report on the UK's progress towards meeting its anti-bribery recommendations; and if she will make a statement. [233479]

The Solicitor-General: We value the OECD Working Group's report and will take their comments into account as we continue with our ongoing work to reform our laws and enhance our mechanisms for tackling overseas corruption.

Courts: Northamptonshire

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Solicitor-General what assessment she has made of the effects of staff shortages in the Northamptonshire Courts Service on the progress made in the prosecution of cases in those courts. [233679]

The Solicitor-General: My contact with the local Crown Prosecution Service suggests that there is no impact on their work as a result of any staff shortages there may be in the Northamptonshire Court Service.

OLYMPICS

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister for the Olympics on what dates in each of the last five years she has informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to her responsibilities or those of non-departmental public bodies for which she is responsible. [232724]

Tessa Jowell: Details of the Interim Olympic Delivery Authority's (iODA) expenditure and contingent liabilities for 2005-06 are contained in the DCMS 2005-06 resource accounts which were laid in the House Library on 24 July 2006.

Details of the Olympic Delivery Authority's (ODA) contingent liabilities are contained in the ODA's 2006-07 and 2007-08 resource accounts, which were laid in the House Library on 19 July 2007 and 21 July 2008 respectively.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Liberal Democrats: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for Gosport, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 2242W, on Liberal Democrats: finance: what developments there have been in relation to the investigation since that Answer. [233634]

Sir Peter Viggers: The Electoral Commission informs me that the position remains as stated in the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for North-East Hertfordshire (Mr. Heald) on 16 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 748W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests were recorded for alcohol-related offences in (i) the St Austell and Truro district, (ii) Cornwall and (iii) England in the last eight quarters for which records are available. [231207]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested covering offences of (a) drunkenness, (b) drunkenness with aggravation, (c) offences against the licensing acts, (d) other offences against intoxicating liquor laws, (e) selected motoring offences is provided in the table. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to provide data for the St. Austell and Truro district or for Cornwall, as the data are not collected at the level required.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Information on arrests for the offences presented in the table is not collected centrally as they are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

With the exception of these offences, it is not possible to separately identify whether arrests and prosecutions for other offences were alcohol related from the data reported to the Home Office and the Ministry of Justice.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for alcohol related offences[2] and issued with penalty notices for disorder (PNDs)[3] in the Devon and Cornwall police force area and England, broken down by quarter, 2005-06[4, 5]

	2005				2006			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Devon and Cornwall police force area								
PNDs	368	400	500	565	483	594	605	616
Cautions	55	49	65	61	58	69	115	99
England								
PNDs	9,063	9,168	9,799	12,856	10,261	12,415	11,964	13,630
Cautions	1,942	2,092	2,035	1,985	1,521	1,314	1,269	1,304

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

2. Includes offences of:
(a) Drunkenness simple
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation simple
(c) Offences by licensed person
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs

[3] Includes all alcohol related penalty notices for disorder:
Drunk and disorderly
Selling alcohol to person under 18
Selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
Supplying alcohol to a person under 18
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 for consumption in a bar in licensed premises
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Being drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises
Consuming alcohol in designated public place
Consuming alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchase of alcohol by a person under 18

[4] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests were made for underage drinking in Islwyn constituency in each of the last five years. [231611]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences in relation to underage drinking are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Assaults on Police

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many assaults on police officers were recorded in each of the last five years; and how many prosecutions there were for such assaults in each year. [228963]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 21 October 2008]*: The available information is given in the following tables. Figures for the number of assaults without injury on a constable are taken from the police recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office and relate to offences recorded. These figures are on a financial year basis. Assaults without injury are categories which apply specifically to the recorded crime data. If an assault on a police officer results in injury then the offence will be recorded under the appropriate wounding classification (i.e. more or less serious wounding).

Prosecutions data come from the Office for Criminal Justice Reform and relate to defendants. These figures are on a calendar year basis. The data refer to prosecutions for assault on a constable which may include cases where an officer receives an injury (unlike the recorded crime data). Because of this and the fact that one dataset looks at offences and the other at defendants, the figures in the two tables are not directly comparable.

Table 1. Recorded offences of assault without injury on a constable

	Number of offences
2003-04	22,189
2004-05	23,604
2005-06	22,217
2006-07	21,749
2007-08	20,457

Table 2. Defendants proceeded against for offences of assault on a constable[1]

	Number proceeded against
2002	16,371
2003	18,274
2004	19,876
2005	20,074
2006	19,118

[1] May include injury.

Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnerships

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the effectiveness of crime and disorder reduction partnerships. [232300]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Following a review of the partnerships provisions of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998, the duties to produce three yearly audits and to report annually to the Secretary of State on a partnership's work and progress were repealed in 2007. They were replaced by new statutory requirements in 2007 to introduce minimum standards for partnership working based on six hallmarks of effective practice, providing clear statements of the core functions of CDRPs and CSPs.

Since the introduction of the minimum standards we have been focusing on gaining an understanding of how well partnerships are addressing the minimum standards. In order to continue to ensure CDRPs/CSPs are effective in delivering community safety outcomes for the public, we are in the process of analysing how partnerships have been progressing with implementing the minimum standards.

Officials have also undertaken a major programme of consultation over the summer and have met representatives from many partnerships and partner organisations in order to update our understanding of the needs of CDRP/CSPs, including hearing about what more can be done to help them be effective. Our findings will inform a national support framework for partnerships. The framework will take account of the impact of the changes brought in through the minimum standards and seeks to understand the gaps in capacity and capability setting out what we will do to continue to support partnerships.

The Home Office's Police and Partnership Standards Unit has also undertaken confidential un-graded assessments of around 30 CDRPs/CSPs over the last two and half years at the invitation of partnerships. They were assessed against their compliance with the six hallmarks contained within the Home Office publication "Delivering Safer Communities: A guide to effective partnership working, published in 2007."

Government offices provide a link between CDRPs/CSPs and central Government. They work closely with partnerships to offer support and guidance on meeting their objectives.

Crimes of Violence

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people in each police force area have *(a)* been issued with a direction to leave under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 and *(b)* been arrested following a failure to comply with such direction since the introduction of the legislation. [222649]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on the number of directions to leave issued by the police, and arrests for failing to comply with the direction to leave is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences of failing to comply with directions to leave under section 27 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1432W, on the Criminal Records Bureau: standards, how many of the disputes resulted in the applicant's complaint being upheld and the record amended in each year. [229252]

Meg Hillier: The total number of disclosures where the details released by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) were disputed by the applicant and subsequently upheld is detailed in the following table.

	Total number of upheld disputes	*Total number of disclosures issued*
2003-04	1,739	2,284,688
2004-05	2,265	2,430,937
2005-06	2,669	2,770,265
2006-07	2,797	3,277,957
2007-08	2,785	3,323,251

The CRB enhanced its recording of disputes during 2005-06. Prior to this, the CRB did not hold figures for disputes not upheld.

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

Departmental Internet

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many of the *(a)* absolute unique and *(b)* total visitors to her Department's mylifemyid website have been from computers in her Department and its agencies. [226064]

Meg Hillier: It is not possible to provide the information requested as the web analytics package that is used for mylifemyid (Google Analytics) does not provide the IP addresses of people visiting the website.

Genetics: Databases

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people had a DNA sample removed from the national DNA database in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997; [229177]

(2) how many and what percentage of people who requested the removal of their sample from the national DNA database in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997 subsequently had it removed. [229178]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In relation to the number of records removed from the national DNA database each year, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to the hon. Member for Cardiff, Central (Jenny Willott) on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 136-38W.

In relation to the number of people who have requested the removal of their record from the national DNA database, I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given to my hon. Friend the Member for Pendle (Mr. Prentice) on 2 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 909-10W.

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals *(a)* under 13 and *(b)* between (i) 13 and 15, (ii) 16 and 18 and (iii) 19 and 21 years of age have had their DNA profiles placed on the national DNA database. [231369]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of profiles added to the national DNA database by English and Welsh forces, broken down by the age ranges in the question, is given in the following table. This shows age at the time the DNA sample was taken, not the person's current age. The position as at 30 September 2008 is shown.

As it is possible for a person's profile to be loaded on to the NDNAD on more than one occasion, some profiles held on the NDNAD are replicates. This can occur, for example, if the person provided different names, or different versions of their name, on separate arrests, or because profiles are upgraded. Therefore, the number of individuals on the NDNAD is the number of subject profiles reduced by the replication rate. At present, the replication rate is estimated to be 13.3 per cent. The table shows both the number of profiles and the estimated number of individuals.

Age on load	*Total subject profiles*	*Estimated individuals*
Under 13	113,053	98,017
13-15	510,236	442,375
16-18	699,075	606,098
19-21	604,527	524,125

Human Trafficking: Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many trafficked children have been identified following police raids on illegal cannabis factories in each of the last five years. [232892]

Mr. Alan Campbell: No central records are kept on juvenile offenders who may have been victims of trafficking. It is not therefore possible to give a reliable figure. However, I am aware that concerns have been raised by a number of children's charities about the arrest of children found in cannabis factories in the UK.

Guidance was issued in 2007 by the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) lead on child trafficking to all chief constables requesting that children found working in cannabis factories and other such illegal and criminal activity should be properly screened to identify whether they are child victims of trafficking.

Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) guidance to crown prosecutors advises that where children are known to have been trafficked and coerced to commit criminal acts, cases should be discontinued on evidential grounds. Where the information concerning coercion is less certain, further details should be sought from the police and youth offender teams so that the public interest in continuing a prosecution can be considered carefully.

Human Trafficking: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many residents of Hertfordshire were *(a)* arrested, *(b)* prosecuted and *(c)* convicted for crimes relating to human trafficking in each of the last five years. [231908]

Mr. Alan Campbell: To date of the seven arrests and prosecutions resulting from activity related to these offences by Hertfordshire Constabulary there have been no convictions.

Identity Cards

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many letters of *(a)* support and *(b)* opposition she has received on the subject of the identity card scheme in the last 12 months. [230595]

Meg Hillier: Correspondence received regarding the national identity scheme is not recorded as being in support of or in opposition to identity cards.

The volume of correspondence on the national identity scheme is recorded each month. The detail of the correspondence received is recorded by theme. The list of themes is not exhaustive and can be added to as required. One letter can generate multiple themes.

From October 2007 to September 2008, the number one theme every month, accounting for by far the most common subject matter, has been "Wants an ID Card". Other themes which regularly feature in the top 10 themes each month are "Cost" (of the scheme and to individuals), "Civil Liberties" and "General Information".

Identity Cards: Airports

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from what point in an airport *(a)* airline pilots and crew who are foreign nationals and *(b)* airside airport workers who are UK nationals will be required to carry an identity card. [226014]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 14 October 2008]*: There will be no requirement to carry an identity card, in fact the Identity Cards Act specifically precludes the requirement to carry a card.

Identity Cards: Finance

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1568W, on identity cards: finance, whether the costs of registering individuals' fingerprint biometrics are being attributed to the common costs of both passport and identity registration; and what the evidential basis is for the statement of 19 December 2006, *Official Report*, column 139WS, that around 70 per cent. of the scheme's costs are required to keep UK passports up to international standards. [224276]

Meg Hillier *[holding answer 12 September 2008]*: The figure of 70 per cent. has since been recalculated to reflect the updated rollout plans announced in the National Identity Scheme Delivery Plan published on 6 March 2008.

The latest six monthly Identity Cards Scheme Cost Report, published on 6 May 2008, sets out those elements of the cost estimates that relate specifically to passports, those specific to identity cards and those that are common to both.

The cost of registering individuals for passports and identity cards is included in common costs because the same technology infrastructure and business processes will be used. In many cases, the same application will result in the issue of both a passport and an identity card.

The latest Cost Report may be found at:

http://www.ips.gov.uk/identity/publications-legislative.asp

I would refer the hon. Member to that report.

Identity Cards: Young People

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department and the Identity and Passport Service paid Ipsos MORI for the research, compilation and publication of Identity and Passport Service, Proof of Age Research. [226063]

Meg Hillier: The amount paid to Ipsos MORI to conduct the Proof of Age research was £79,778 (excluding VAT).

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many comments were received from the mylifemyid.org consultation website; how many were *(a)* positive and *(b)* negative; and if she will make a statement. [230596]

Meg Hillier: The mylifemyid.org website was set up as a research community and not as a consultation website. Members were asked specific research questions, and the responses are still being analysed. The results of the research will be published in due course.

Lancashire Constabulary: Recruitment

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants to join Lancashire Constabulary as a police officer were rejected in each year since 2004; whether unsuccessful applicants are given reasons for their rejection on request; and if she will make a statement. [230087]

Mr. Coaker: Chief police officers are responsible for recruitment to their forces. They operate within a set of nationally agreed standards. Information provided by Lancashire police on the number of applications rejected from 2007 is shown in the following table; there is no information available for the number of applications rejected prior to 2007. Chief officers are not required to give reasons for rejecting applications although in most circumstances, candidates will be informed of the reasons for their rejection.

Lancashire police, number of rejected applications to become a police officer, 2007 to 31 October 2008

Recruitment period	*Applications rejected*
January 2007	820
April 2007	673
September 2007	702
February 2008	[1]698
August 2008	[1]548

[1] February and August applications are still under consideration and figures reflect rejected applications to date.

Offences Against Children: Internet

Margaret Moran: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many investigations of suspected terrorism offences leading to arrests have revealed the use of online images of child abuse to convey information; and if she will make a statement. [230272]

Mr. Coaker: This is an operational matter for the Metropolitan Police Counter Terrorism Command.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average cost to her Department of an interview at a passport interview centre is. [231583]

Meg Hillier: Excluding the cost of depreciation of relevant set-up capital expenditure, the average unit cost of an interview at a passport centre for the financial year to date to the end of September is £76.07.

Police: Bureaucracy

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average were spent on patrol by police officers in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency in the latest period for which figures are available. [231713]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available centrally.

Police: Stun Guns

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what evaluation she has carried out on the trials of the use of Taser guns by the Metropolitan Police; and what conclusions have been reached from the trials. [233768]

Mr. Coaker: The 12-month trial into the use of Taser by specially trained units who are not firearms officers ran from 1 September 2007 to 31 August 2008. The Metropolitan Police Service were one of 10 forces who participated in the trial. The trial is currently being evaluated by the Home Office Scientific Development Branch and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The Home Office will make an announcement on the trial and the future deployment of Taser on receipt of those evaluations and of independent medical advice.

Security Guards: Licensing

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what resources have been provided for the Security Industry Authority to meet the requirement on it to confirm the right to work of licence holders. [232342]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The ability to seek information to confirm that an applicant has the right to work in the UK has always been included in the criteria (approved under section 7 of the Private Security Industry Act 2001) upon which the SIA base its determination whether or not to grant a licence. The SIA accordingly carries out this activity within its existing core resources.

TRANSPORT

Cycling: Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department and its agencies have given to the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign in the last 24 months. [233233]

Paul Clark: None. The responsibility for cycling rests with local highway authorities whose local transport plan grant includes funding for cycling.

Departmental Consultants

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has budgeted to spend on external consultants in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [234337]

Mr. Hoon: Specific budgets for spending on external consultants are agreed for each year in the Department's annual business planning process. As such, there are no budgets allocated yet for consultancy spending for 2009-10 and beyond.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, House of Lords, column WS174, on the Department for Transport: official receptions, who the members are of the parking working group; what the remit is of the group; and on what dates the group has met over the last 12 months. [232961]

Paul Clark: The working group consisted of representatives from The British Parking Association, London Councils, The Automobile Association, The National Parking Adjudication Service, The Parking and Traffic Appeals Service, The RAC Foundation, North Yorkshire Police, The Local Government Association, Essex County Council, Transport For London, the Department for Transport, the Government Office for London, and the Department for Constitutional Affairs.

Its remit was to provide the Department with advice and support in the preparation of the Parking Regulations and Statutory Guidance contained in Part 6 of the Traffic Management Act 2004.

The Group's final meeting was on 16 March 2006.

Departmental Temporary Employment

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* contractors, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* staff from employment agencies work in (i) his Department and (ii) DFT Human Resources; and what the cost is of employing these staff on a monthly basis. [232641]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport from which companies the *(a)* contractors, *(b)* consultants and *(c)* staff from employment agencies who work in (i) his Department and (ii) DFT Human Resources have been hired. [232642]

Mr. Hoon *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Government Car and Despatch Agency

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost of services provided to the Government Car and Despatch Agency by car and driver contractors was in each of the last five years, broken down by contractor. [232470]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency paid the following amounts to car and driver contractors:

	Value (£)
2007-08	1,404,946
2006-07	1,135,350
2005-06	1,632,514
2004-05	1,357,462
2003-04	1,022,606

Information on payments to individual contractors could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles were leased by the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) to each Government department in 2007-08; and what the monetary value of the contract between the GCDA and each Government department was in that year. [232472]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 116WS. This details of the number of cars and the contracted cost of providing ministerial transport in 2007-08.

In addition the Government Car and Despatch Agency provided cars and drivers to senior officials and others as follows:

Department	*Number of cars*	*Contracted cost (£)*
Crown Prosecution Service	1	68,600
Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform	1	69,600
Cabinet Office[1]	4	278,000
Commission for Equality and Human Rights	1	68,800
Department for Children, Schools and Family	1	66,600
Department for International Development	1	65,600
Department for Transport	1	68,600
Department for Work and Pensions	1	60,100
Export Credits Guarantee Department	1	62,200
Department of Health	3	205,600
HM Court Service	1	61,500
HM Inspectorate of Constabulary	2	123,000
HM Treasury	1	65,400
Home Office[2]	11	1,231,300
Ministry of Justice	1	72,900
Northern Ireland Office	1	60,700
Office of Science and Technology	1	63,400
Wales Office[3]	1	9,400

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[1] Includes the provision of a driver only for the Official Leader of the Opposition.

[2] Includes cars and drivers provided to former Prime Ministers and other former Ministers.

[3] Car only provided.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many Government cars are owned by the Government Car and Despatch Agency, broken down by *(a)* model and *(b)* level of tailpipe emissions. [232473]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency owns 231 cars as follows:

Make and model	*Number on fleet*	*CO_2 emissions*
Toyota Prius (Hybrid)	100	104
Honda Civic ES (Hybrid)	38	109
Vauxhall Corsa	5	127
BMW E60 520D	1	149
Vauxhall Astra	1	151
Vauxhall Vectra	1	157
Vauxhall Vectra	1	182
Vauxhall Vectra	11	186
Rover 75	1	190
Hyundai Sonata	7	191
Ford S-Max	1	193
Peugeot 607	1	193
Vauxhall Zafira	1	194
Ford Mondeo	4	196
Jaguar XJ Diesel	17	214
Ford Mondeo	6	218
Hyundai Santa Fe	4	218
Land Rover Discovery	7	244
Rover 75	5	249
Land Rover Discovery	1	249
Ford Galaxy	1	260
Ford Galaxy	1	264
Jaguar XJ X350	1	264
Ford Galaxy	4	278
Rover 75	2	280
Vauxhall Omega	2	284
Jaguar Sov 4.0	1	285
Jaguar XJ8 4.2 LWB	2	330
Jaguar XJ X350	1	330
Ford Sapphire	2	n/a
Daimler Limousine	1	n/a

These figures are for all the cars owned by GCDA on 30 October 2008, including the ministerial fleet, senior officials' fleet, green cars and short-term hire fleets, training vehicles and cars leased to other Government Departments. CO_2 figures are not available for the Ford Sapphire and Daimler Limousine.

Hovercraft

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what assessment he has made of the merits of hovercraft travel; if he will provide assistance to transport companies and allocate funds for the development of hovercraft transport routes; and if he will make a statement. [233851]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Hovercraft have provided a useful means of travel in the UK in the past but at present there seems to be little commercial interest in setting up such facilities. Consequently there has been no need to do an assessment of hovercraft travel.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what legislation governs hovercraft travel; what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued in the last 12 months and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequential to the provision of such legislation; and if he will make a statement. [233852]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The legislation specifically addressing the safety and operation of Hovercraft is as follows:

	Legislation
Principal Act	
1968 Ch 59	Hovercraft Act 1968
Statutory Instruments	
1972 No: 674	Hovercraft (General) Order
1972 No: 971	Hovercraft (Application of Enactment)Order
1972 No:1531	Hovercraft (Birth, Deaths and Missing Persons) Regulations
1986 No: 1305	Hovercraft (Civil Liability) Order
1987 No: 1835	Hovercraft (Civil Liability) (Amendment) Order
1989 No: 1350	Hovercraft(Application of Enactment) Order
1996 No: 3173	Hovercraft (General) (Amendment) Order
1997 No: 320	Hovercraft (Fees) Regulations
2004 No: 302	Merchant Shipping (High Speed Craft) Regulations, amended by 2004/2883, 2005/2114, 2006/2055

If the vessel carries more than 12 passengers then a number of standard passenger shipping Regulations are also applicable, addressing matters such as Passenger Counting, International Safety Management Code and tonnage.

In addition merchant shipping environmental regulations on Anti-Fouling Paint systems, Oil, Air Quality, Garbage and Sewage Pollution Prevention apply as to other vessels.

If the hovercraft is of 500 gross tonnage or over then it will require a Safe Manning Document.

If on international voyages then the International Ship and Port Facilities Security Code applies.

In addition the following Departmental Guidance is applicable:

MSIS011: High Speed Craft Code (1994) Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors

MSIS 024: High Speed Craft Code (2000) Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors

These address High Speed Craft in general, and apply to larger hovercraft built after 1996.

(i) None of these documents have been issued in the last 12 months.

(ii) The following are planned for issue in the next 12 months:

(a) Statutory Instruments:

Merchant Shipping (High Speed Craft) Amendment Regulations. This is planned to incorporate IMO updates to the HSC Code.

(b) Departmental Notices:

An update to MSIS 024 "Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors HSC Code 2000" to take account of the HSC Code 2000 amendments which came into force 1 July 2008.

There will also be a new set of "Instructions for the Guidance of Surveyors HSC Code 2000, 2008 Edition" to be published to take account of HSC Code amendments in force from 1 July 2008 for vessels built after this date.

(c) Other Documents:

None.

Metronet: Contracts

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effects of Metronet going into administration upon the delivery of its commitment under its public-private partnership contract. [231555]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Following the PPP administration of Metronet on 18 July 2007, both Metronet companies transferred to Transport for London on 27 May 2008. Transport for London, together with London Underground and the Government, are currently considering the future structure for the lines previously the responsibility of Metronet. A key consideration is to ensure that the major upgrades due to be completed on the Victoria, Metropolitan, Circle, District and Hammersmith and City lines are not significantly affected by Metronet's failure.

The comprehensive spending review 2007 settlement sets out the expected levels of Transport for London's grant and borrowing to 2017-18. This generous funding package worth some £40 billion over the next 10 years makes provision for the continued modernisation of the underground and costs arising from Metronet's administration. Government will continue to work with London Underground and Transport for London to ensure that these upgrades can be delivered.

Passenger safety remains of paramount importance. London Underground has always retained overall responsibility for passenger safety on the network and the Office of Rail Regulation regulates health and safety on the underground.

Motor Vehicles: Accidents

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has undertaken research comparing accident rates among young drivers in the UK with other European countries. [232432]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Yes. The most recent comparisons are in an OECD report 'Young Drivers: The Road to Safety' published in October 2006. The Department for Transport participated in its preparation. A summary of that study is available online at

http://213.253.134.43/oecd/pdfs/browseit/7706011E5.PDF.

Recent casualty statistics for Great Britain are available from the Department's website at

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/statistics/datatablespublications/accidents/casualtiesgbar/.

Motorway Service Areas: Repairs and Maintenance

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the letter from his Department, dated 30 June 2008, on Newport Pagnell Services, what recent correspondence the Highways Agency has had with Welcome Break Ltd regarding the repair of the access barrier from the service station to Little Linford Lane; and for what reasons the promised repair has not been carried out. [233860]

Paul Clark: Following the receipt of complaints from Newport Pagnell Town Council regarding the rear access barrier at Newport Pagnell Motorway Service Area (MSA), the Highways Agency (HA) wrote to Welcome Break on 3 July 2008. Welcome Break responded on 7 July 2008 to confirm that the barrier had been re-instated and that it was fully operational. However, following this, Welcome Break wrote to the HA on 11 July 2008, to highlight that the barrier had been vandalised again by traffic trying to access the local road network. I understand that Welcome Break has recently implemented a more robust barrier system which is now fully operational.

During regular liaison meetings, the HA and MSA operators have discussed various options to provide a longer term solution to unauthorised use of rear access roads at MSAs and are currently considering options.

Official Cars

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Government Ministers are provided with a ministerial car; and what the cost of providing ministerial cars was in the last 12 months. [232344]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statement made by the Secretary of State for Transport on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 116-118WS.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the cost was of providing Government cars in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [232469]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Information about the cost of providing the Government Cars Service has been published each year since 1998 in the annual report and accounts of the Government Car and Despatch Agency, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria are used to determine eligibility *(a)* for a Government car and *(b)* for access to a vehicle supplied by car and driver contractors. [232471]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Prime Minister sets out who is entitled to an official car and driver in the ministerial code and the Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) provides cars and drivers in line with this guidance.

It is for GCDA to decide how best to meet and resource the demands for official transport for ministers and others. There are no set criteria for using outside contractors; each request for GCDA's services is dealt with individually.

All the contractors used have been appointed through an open competition run under OJEU procurement procedures. Once appointed, all private contractor drivers must obtain security clearances to the same level as GCDA's own drivers.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* permanent secretaries have chosen not to make use of a Government car. [232482]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government Car and Despatch Agency (GCDA) does not provide permanently allocated official cars and drivers to eight Ministers and nine Permanent Secretaries.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if will make it his policy to ensure that British-built cars are purchased to add to the Government fleet. [233039]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1205W.

Port of Hull

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of *(a)* imports and *(b)* exports passed through the Port of Hull in the latest period for which figures are available. [232599]

Jim Fitzpatrick: In 2007 the port of Hull handled 3.3 per cent. of UK seaborne imports by weight, and 1.8 per cent. of seaborne exports. (Approximately 96 per cent. of all UK imports and exports are carried by sea.)

Ports: Non-domestic Rates

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 144W, on ports, if he will place in the Library a copy of the assessments that have been made of the financial impact on ports of the retrospective increases in business rates. [231853]

John Healey: I have been asked to reply.

The Valuation Office Agency have a duty to maintain correct rating lists and where inaccuracies are identified in the list they have a duty to correct them. They do not, and are not required to, undertake impact assessments as part of their statutory functions.

Railways

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the necessary capacity increases which will be needed on the rail network in each of the next eight years in order to reach the goal of doubling the level of demand rail can accommodate by 2016, as stated in his Department's White Paper, Delivering a Sustainable Railway. [232015]

Paul Clark: "Delivering a Sustainable Railway" sets out the level of demand to be accommodated on the railway in terms of passenger kilometres per route, and peak demand in London and other urban areas by 2013-14. This equates to an increased demand to be accommodated of 22.5 per cent. by 2013-14. This has not been expressed as an annual incremental target, because the timing of the additional capacity will depend on commercial negotiations which are in progress.

River Thames: Freight

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport, what plans he has to promote use of the River Thames for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight traffic; what recent representations he has received about this issue; and if he will make a statement. [233849]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Passenger services on the Thames, and their promotion, are a matter for Transport for London and the Mayor of London. As far as freight is concerned, the Department for Transport has a number of initiatives to stimulate the greater use of water for freight transport. In particular, it currently provides start-up support to the Sea and Water Organisation, an industry-led body that actively promotes the use of water for freight. In addition, the Department's Sustainable Distribution Fund provides financial incentives to stimulate the greater use of water for freight transport through the Freight Facility and Waterborne Freight Grant schemes.

Road Traffic: Greater London

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge on levels of traffic congestion in East and South East London. [232927]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Thames Gateway Bridge is a Transport for London (TfL) led project and it is therefore for them, in the first instance, to make an assessment of traffic impacts. The Department for Transport reviewed the evidence presented at the Thames Gateway Bridge public inquiry in summer 2006 to confirm the deliverability of the scheme and the need to make funding provision. Since then, no further assessment has been carried out by the Department.

Rolling Stock: Procure[illegible]

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many of the 1,300 new railway carriages, that the Government committed itself to making available in the High Level Output Specification, have been ordered by train operating companies. [232022]

Paul Clark: Train operators have so far ordered 423 new carriages.

Satellites

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what use his Department makes of data obtained from earth observation satellites; and what payment is made for such data, where applicable. [230465]

Mr. Hoon: The Maritime and Coastguard Agency use satellite derived images to monitor pollution at sea within 200 miles of the United Kingdom. These are obtained under the Clean Seas Net system supported by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). No direct payment is made for these images, although the UK does pay a subscription to EMSA.

Wines

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his Department's practice is on supplying non-alcoholic wine as a choice at official receptions or functions. [229130]

Mr. Hoon: Government Hospitality (GH), in Protocol Directorate, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, manages official ministerial hospitality for all Government Departments. GH does not serve branded 'low alcohol' or 'alcohol-free' wine at any of its events, and has no plans to do so.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Reservoir: Ringmer

8. **Norman Baker:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with South East Water on the establishment of a reservoir near Ringmer, East Sussex; and if he will make a statement. [233458]

Jane Kennedy: South East Water has included a proposal for a reservoir near Ringmer as part of its draft Water Resources Management Plan. These are statutory plans, and have recently been subject to public consultation. Ministers have not at this stage entered into any discussions with South East Water on its proposals, although officials, especially at the Environment Agency, have done so.

Water Services

9. **Sir Nicholas Winterton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the level of the average water bill in 2009-10. [233459]

Jane Kennedy: Based on each company's draft business plans for 2010 to 2015, companies in England and Wales expect the average annual household bill for 2009-10 to be £326. Ofwat will be in a position to say what the forecast average household bill in 2009-10 will be after it has approved companies 2009-10 charges schemes, early in 2009.

10. **Mrs. Dorries:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when he last met the chief executive of Ofwat to discuss the level of charges for water services. [233460]

Hilary Benn: My right hon. friend, the Minister for Food and Farming, met the chief executive of Ofwat on 29 October 2008. Their meeting included discussion of water charges.

GM Crops

11. **Mrs. Riordan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the effects of genetically modified crops on the environment. [233461]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under European Union legislation, proposed GM crops are subject to a robust case-by-case assessment of their potential impact on human health and the environment. We will only agree to the release of a GM crop if we are fully satisfied that it is safe, based on the evidence.

Environmental Monitoring

12. **Sir Paul Beresford:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the contribution of the Kopernikus programme to environmental monitoring. [233462]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has undertaken several studies to assess the benefits of Kopernikus in the UK and supported further studies in Europe, in order to ensure that decisions taken on the programme are based upon sound evidence. These studies show that Kopernikus data could contribute to our understanding of the environment, when combined with information from the many other monitoring and research programmes that the UK supports.

Heathrow: Air Quality

13. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the effects on air quality in the area around Heathrow of the proposed third runway. [233463]

Hilary Benn: I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues about air quality and noise in relation to transport, including plans around Heathrow.

Sheep Identification

14. **Mr. Alan Reid:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to introduce the electronic identification of sheep; and if he will make a statement. [233466]

Jane Kennedy: Council Regulation 21/2004 provides for the mandatory introduction of electronic identification of sheep from 31 December 2009. There is a serious risk of disallowance on our farm payments and potential EU infraction proceedings if we fail to comply with EU law. We will therefore introduce electronic identification in England from 31 December 2009.

Flooding: Pitt Report

15. **Mr. Harper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress his Department has made in implementing the recommendations made in the Pitt report on flooding. [233467]

Hilary Benn: We have already taken a number of steps in response to Sir Michael Pitt's findings, which I reported to the House on 25 June 2008, and we will be publishing a detailed response, together with a prioritised action plan shortly.

Animal Disease Strategy

16. **Mr. Jack:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in his Department's discussions with the farming industry on sharing the costs of the animal disease strategy. [233468]

Jane Kennedy: Considerable progress has been made with the farming industry on responsibility and cost-sharing, as reflected in the 2006 report of the Joint Industry-Government Working Group and the work of the Consultative Forum between December 2007 and July 2008. We will be looking to build on this as part of an extensive consultation on specific proposals for sharing responsibilities and costs for animal health in England which the Government intend to launch later this year.

Supermarkets: Pricing

17. **Greg Mulholland:** To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions his Department has had with farmers' representatives on the pricing of their goods in supermarkets. [233469]

Jane Kennedy: None. We do not discuss prices offered by supermarkets as we believe they are for the market to determine within the constraints of competition law. The Department, at both official and ministerial level, holds frequent discussions with different sectors of the industry on a range of issues that concern them, including the encouragement of long-term sustainable relationships between suppliers and retailers.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Research

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what his policy is on whether any reduction in bovine tuberculosis in areas which were examined by the Independent Scientific Group might be deemed as new scientific evidence; [R] [232169]

(2) what research on bovine tuberculosis transmission has been carried out or commissioned by his Department in the areas where culling took place under the Krebs trials in the period after Professor Bourne and the Independent Scientific Group reported; [R] [232170]

(3) if he will meet Helen Jenkins of the Institute of Zoology to discuss the research she has undertaken on bovine tuberculosis. [232376]

Jane Kennedy: No licences will be issued for culling badgers for the purpose of preventing the spread of bovine tuberculosis (TB) in cattle although we remain open to exceptions. Circumstances might arise in the longer term which require a re-evaluation of the policy. New scientific evidence which, for example, supports changes to a culling methodology may change the position.

New evidence around the reduction in bovine TB in areas involved in the Randomised Badger Culling Trial (RBCT) could be relevant, but that would depend on the reasons for the decrease and the time scale over which it was observed. The paper, "The effects of annual widespread badger culls on cattle tuberculosis following the cessation of culling" by Helen Jenkins and Christl

Donnelly from Imperial College and Rosie Woodroffe from the Institute of Zoology, published in the International Journal of Infectious Diseases in May 2008 showed some changes over the course of the RBCT and over the period after culling stopped. However this evidence was fully considered by the Secretary of State before making his decision in July.

Other research that has been carried out in the RBCT areas includes the monitoring of badger numbers through distance sampling. Recently four further projects have been commissioned to use the data collected during the RBCT, including projects to consider the effects on herd breakdowns in relation to the time and location of badger culling.

A meeting with Helen Jenkins of Imperial College is welcome since her work is included in a DEFRA-funded project which looks at herd incidence in areas involved in the RBCT since culling stopped. This project will continue until 2011 and the Secretary of State is kept-up-to-date on progress.

Carbon Emissions: Finance

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether local authorities will be compensated for the regulatory costs of the carbon reduction commitment. [222919]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

There are no plans to provide additional funding to local authorities in regard to their participation in the Carbon Reduction Commitment. There are already funding streams in place to help local authorities monitor and reduce their energy use via the Local Authority Performance Framework Climate Change Indicators and the SALIX Finance fund. The additional administration costs of the emissions monitoring required by the Carbon Reduction Commitment are not substantial.

Overall the energy efficiency benefits of participating in the Carbon Reduction Commitment are calculated to outweigh the administrative costs. Economic analysis indicates that local authorities are well placed to perform well in the scheme as there are significant opportunities for local authorities to increase the energy efficiency of their operations.

Climate Change: Crops

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment has been made of the potential impact of climate change on crop yields. [231675]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has a strong ongoing programme of research on agriculture and climate change. This includes many strands of research that inform our knowledge of the potential effects of climate change on the production of crops and other agricultural products. Topics covered by recent studies include: the vulnerability of UK agriculture to extreme events; the timescale of potential farm level responses and adaptations to climate change in England and Wales; physiological and technological constraints on the yields of UK crops and livestock and expectations of progress to 2050; and challenges from climate change for disease management in sustainable arable systems.

As part of the climate change adaptation project within DEFRA's Farming for the Future programme, a major literature review has recently been completed to bring together and summarise the significant body of research by DEFRA and other organisations on the effects of climate change on agricultural systems (including both agricultural production and the natural environment), and potential adaptation measures. The findings of this review show that climate change presents a range of both threats and opportunities to agriculture, horticulture and forestry.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223057]

Huw Irranca-Davies: There have been fewer than five disciplinary cases in the Department in the last 12 months. As such the details of the cases cannot be disclosed on the grounds of confidentiality.

Domestic Wastes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 713W, on domestic waste: waste disposal, what targets or goals have been set for local authorities in relation to national indicator 191 on residual household waste. [232587]

Jane Kennedy: The targets set for local authorities in relation to national indicator 191 are displayed in the following table.

				Kilograms		
Region	*Authority*	*Waste disposal authority (if waste collection authority)*	*2006/07 (baseline)*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
London	Barnet LB	North London Waste Authority	746	690	662	625
South West	Bath and North East Somerset Council	n/a	660	596	569	530
West Midlands	Birmingham City Council MBC	n/a	908	785	737	727
London	Camden LB	North London Waste Authority	557	503	483	464
North West	Cheshire County Council	n/a	835	1475	1432	1414
London	City of London LB	n/a	647	623	598	574
South West	Cornwall County Council	n/a	856	778.93	713.49	685.36
South West	Council of the Isles of Scilly	n/a	n/a	1503	1448	1349
West Midlands	Coventry City Council	n/a	825	800	770	735

				Kilograms		
Region	*Authority*	*Waste disposal authority (if waste collection authority)*	*2006/07 (baseline)*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
North West	Cumbria County Council	n/a	930	702	694	687
North East	Durham County Council	n/a	840	741	684	673
London	Enfield LB	North London Waste Authority	737	732	709	688
Eastern	Essex County Council	n/a	763	710	685	670
London	Hackney LB	North London Waste Authority	690	647	595	540
London	Havering LB	East London Waste Authority	951	832	809	776
West Midlands	Herefordshire Council	n/a	852	762	759	691
South East	Isle of Wight	n/a	873	870	867	864
South East	Kent County Council	n/a	836	762.4	732.8	703.8
London	Lewisham LB	n/a	859	785	754	716
North West	Manchester City Council MBC	n/a	758	726	636	613
South East	Medway	n/a	821	838	793	742
London	Merton LB	n/a	716	733	712	691
North East	Middlesbrough Borough Council	n/a	914	849	840	790
South East	Oxfordshire County Council	n/a	726	730	723	715
London	RB Kingston upon Thames	n/a	818	753	645	624
London	Richmond LB	West London Waste Authority	681	613	582	553
North West	Rochdale MBC	Greater Manchester Waste Disposal Authority	682	537.44	480.15	424.1
East Midlands	Rutland County Council	n/a	958	821	758	733
South West	Somerset County Council	n/a	630	587	540	475
South East	Southampton City Council	n/a	793	753	742	731
West Midlands	Staffordshire County Council	n/a	803	800	775	735
West Midlands	Telford and Wrekin Council	n/a	841	791	734	690
West Midlands	Walsall MBC	n/a	850	833	795	760
West Midlands	Warwickshire County Council	n/a	849	746	702	671
South East	West Berkshire District Council	n/a	1040	1000	850	800
North West	Wigan MBC	n/a	922	775	730	690
South West	Wiltshire	n/a	726	697.5	690.19	663.1
Yorkshire and Humber	York City Council	n/a	723	640	617	611

Electronic Equipment: Recycling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what processes are in place to encourage recycling of products to be disposed of under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and how these processes are publicised by his Department. [232993]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The UK WEEE regulations place a number of obligations on the producers and distributors of electrical and electronic equipment (EEE) to provide information to consumers as to how best they can dispose of their old equipment to help protect the environment. These obligations came into force from 1 July 2007.

The Department has worked closely with all stakeholders and interested parties to ensure that all are aware both of their obligations under the regulations and of the new arrangements. It will continue to do so as, and when, these are reviewed and changes are made.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the products by *(a)* amount and *(b)* weight of waste products under the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive which go to (i) recycling and (ii) landfill. [232994]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The waste electrical and electronic equipment (WEEE) directive introduced producer responsibility for WEEE. Producers must pay for the treatment and recycling/recovery of separately collected WEEE in the UK.

During the first compliance period that ended on 31 December 2007, a total of 184,334.13 tonnes of WEEE was recorded in the UK as having been sent for recycling and energy recovery.

Data on the final amounts going to landfill are not kept.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he has made towards the review of the operation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and what amendments he proposes to its implementation in the UK. [232999]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

A review of the UK's WEEE regulations was announced by my right hon. Friend the then Minister for Energy at a WEEE stakeholder event on 9 July 2008. A full 12-week public consultation exercise will be undertaken to decide whether any changes to the existing regulations are necessary. It is hoped that this consultation will begin before the end of the year so that any changes can be put into place for the start of the 2010 compliance period.

Fisheries: Conservation

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his policy is on the size of the bluefin tuna fleet in the eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean; and what proposals on bluefin tuna fleet capacity he plans to put forward at the forthcoming meeting of the contracting parties of the International Commission on the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna in Marrakech. [233240]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) will be discussing a wide range of issues concerning the bluefin tuna stocks in the Eastern Atlantic and Mediterranean.

At the last meeting of the capacity working group held in Madrid in July 2008, it was agreed that measures needed to be taken to reduce the size of the fleet operating in this fishery. Work has already started on reduction of the EU fleet with a freeze on capacity already agreed, and scaling down will follow. The EU will be urging other contracting parties within the fishery to take similar action.

DEFRA fully supports this action as it is clear that over capacity of the fleet is a contributory factor to over fishing.

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether his Department plans to attend the meeting of the contracting parties of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tuna in Marrakech as part of the EU delegation. [233274]

Huw Irranca-Davies: As part of the EU delegation, a DEFRA representative will be attending this year's annual meeting of the International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas.

Horses: Animal Breeding

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether there are plans for his Department to begin keeping records of equine semen imports to the UK. [231643]

Jane Kennedy: Records are kept by Animal Health at each local animal health office. All consignments of imported semen are required to be accompanied by health certification under EU law. Animal Health carries out checks on consignments to ensure health conditions are met.

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to assist horse breeders in verifying the provenance of imported equine semen. [231644]

Jane Kennedy: All consignments of imported semen are required to be accompanied by health certification under EU law. Animal Health carries out checks on consignments to ensure health conditions are met.

Horses: Conservation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on stewardship payments for Heritage Trust List ponies in the last three years; and how many Heritage Trust Pony passports have been issued since the scheme was established. [233672]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Natural England holds information on Environmental Stewardship (ES) agreements which support farmers grazing native breeds, including Dartmoor ponies. However, information on the individual breeds is not recorded centrally and will have to be assembled separately by looking at individual agreements. I will place this information in the Library by the end of December.

ES expenditure on grazing by rare breeds (equines, sheep, cattle or goats) paid since the scheme started in February 2006 is £543,760, on 220 agreements (£223,584 in the south-west region, on 82 agreements).

426 Heritage Trust List passports have been issued since the scheme was established.

Incinerators

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent of regulatory compliance of commercial hazardous waste incinerators; and what procedures are in place for the inspection of such incinerators. [232304]

Jane Kennedy: The regulation and compliance assessment of hazardous waste incinerators is the responsibility of the Environment Agency. The Environment Agency ensures compliance with permit conditions which are based on national legislation and European directives, and places operator monitoring returns on public registers. In case of a breach of the permit conditions, the Environment Agency takes action in accordance with its published policy on enforcement and prosecution. It also carries out plant inspections at a frequency determined on the basis of risk using its operator performance and regulatory assessment (OPRA) tool.

Meat Products: Exports

Malcolm Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with US Administration officials on the export of British meat-based products to the US. [233465]

Jane Kennedy: Working closely with industry, we are focusing our resources on those third countries where there is likely to be the greatest success in obtaining access for British meat exports. We will continue to play a full role in EU negotiations with the US to lift their current ban on ruminants and ruminant products introduced as a result of the BSE epidemic.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when a reply will be sent to the hon. Member for West Chelmsford's letter of 23 July (Reference: MC 95922/TP) concerning Mrs. C Anstey of Chelmsford; and what the reasons are for the time taken to reply. [233005]

Huw Irranca-Davies: A reply to the hon. Member's letter, signed by Lord Hunt, was sent on 27 October. A holding reply was sent on 11 August.

I can only apologise for the delay in responding which was due to an unfortunate combination of necessary policy updates, parliamentary summer recess and the changeover to DEFRA'S ministerial line-up.

Organic Food

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the current economic situation on demand for *(a)* organic, *(b)* free range and *(c)* fair trade food. [231676]

Jane Kennedy: The Government have not made their own assessment of the impact on demand for these categories of food, but we do monitor data collected by others on changes to consumer purchasing of food and we maintain good contacts with producers and with the major retailers. Early indications suggest that sales of organic products are falling while sales of fair trade products are holding up.

Packaging: Waste Disposal

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent efforts his Department has made to encourage retailers to reduce waste from packaging; and if he will make a statement. [232478]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action programme (WRAP) is working with retailers through the Courtauld Commitment. The Courtauld Commitment is a voluntary agreement between WRAP, DEFRA, the Scottish and Welsh Governments and the UK grocery sector to achieve significant reductions in household packaging and food waste. WRAP announced on 28 July that the grocery sector has achieved the first objective—to end packaging growth in the UK—despite unanticipated challenges including 1.8 per cent. growth in the grocery sector and population growth of 0.5 per cent. per annum. The commitment is due to run until 2010. Discussions are ongoing for an ambitious successor agreement. Currently 32 major retailers, representing around 92 per cent. of the grocery sector, have signed up to this agreement. In addition, individual supermarkets have made their own additional commitments to reduce even further the amount of packaging they use.

Polytunnels

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Environment Agency on the contribution polytunnels make to *(a)* surface water run-off and *(b)* flood risk in rural areas. [232771]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: The Secretary of State has not engaged in any discussions with the Environment Agency regarding this issue.

Recycling

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of *(a)* total and *(b)* recyclable waste produced in England, broken down by (i) source and (ii) type of waste, in each of the last 10 years. [231665]

Jane Kennedy: The available estimates of total waste in England by source and type of waste for 1998-99, 2002-03, 2004 and 2006 are presented in Table 1. Recycling and reuse figures are only available by sector in 1998-99 and 2002-03 (Table 2), and are presented by waste type for 2004 and 2006 (Table 3). Estimates for intervening years have not been made.

Table 1: Estimated total waste by source and type in 1998-99, 2002-03, 2004 and 2006

Million tonnes

–	*Paper and card*	*Animal and vegetable*	*General and mixed*	*Metals and scrap equipment*	*Mineral wastes and residues*	*Chemical and other*	*Total*
1998-99							
Agriculture	—	—	—	—	—	—	n/a
Mining and quarrying	—	—	—	—	72.0	—	72.0
Industrial	2.6	2.1	19.3	3.9	12.2	5.1	45.1
Commercial	2.4	0.4	19.8	0.5	0.2	0.4	23.7
Construction and demolition	—	—	—	—	69.2	—	69.2
Sewage	—	—	0.9	—	—	—	0.9
Dredgings	—	—	—	—	15.1	—	15.1
Household	—	—	23.5	—	—	—	23.5
Total	5.0	2.5	63.5	44	168.7	55	249.5
2002-03							
Agriculture	—	—	0.3	—	—	—	0.3
Mining and quarrying	—	—	—	—	67.0	—	67.0
Industrial	2.7	4.1	9.3	2.8	12.9	5.7	37.6
Commercial	6.0	22	18.4	0.9	1.0	1.9	30.3
Construction and demolition	—	—	—	—	90.9	—	90.9
Sewage	—	1.0	—	—	—	—	1.0

Table 1: Estimated total waste by source and type in 1998-99, 2002-03, 2004 and 2006

Million tonnes

	Paper and card	*Animal and vegetable*	*General and mixed*	*Metals and scrap equipment*	*Mineral wastes and residues*	*Chemical and other*	*Total*
Dredgings	—	—	—	—	14.2	—	142
Household	1.1	1.2	22.1	0.4	—	1.0	25.8
Total	9.8	8.3	50.2	4.1	186.1	8.6	267.2
2004							
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.3
Mining and quarrying	—	—	—	—	70.9	—	70.9
Industrial	2.6	4.5	8.4	2.8	12.2	4.3	34.8
Commercial	6.2	2.4	19.3	2.2	1.0	1.4	32.5
Construction and demolition	—	—	0.9	3.4	90.9	—	95.3
Sewage	—	—	1.3	—	—	—	1.3
Dredgings	—	—	0.0	—	13.1	—	13.1
Household	1.8	2.0	21.1	1.6	—	0.0	26.6
Total	10.7	8.9	51.1	10.0	188.1	5.9	274.8
2006							
Agriculture, hunting, forestry and fishing	0.0	0.0	0.1	0.0	—	0.1	0.3
Mining and quarrying	—	—	—	—	61.2	—	61.2
Industrial	2.4	4.3	7.4	2.5	9.8	3.0	29.3
Commercial	7.4	1.9	19.4	2.1	1.7	1.2	33.9
Construction and demolition	0.5	—	9.8	1.5	89.6	—	101.4
Sewage	—	—	1.2	—	—	—	1.2
Dredgings	—	—	0.0	—	12.3	—	12.3
Household	1.5	2.7	20.4	1.6	0.5	0.0	26.7
Total	11.8	9.0	58.4	7.8	175.1	44	266.4

Sources:

1. Agricultural waste is estimated from the Environment Agency's model of agricultural waste arisings.
2. Mining and quarrying wastes are estimated from production and ratios of waste to product. Estimates may be revised in light of implementation of the Mining Waste Directive.
3. Industrial and commercial wastes estimates are from the Environment Agency's National Waste Production Survey in 1998-99 and 2002-03. Data for later years are estimated from the 2002-03 survey data and updated business population figures. This provides an indicative estimate of waste arisings, but does not capture changes in waste management or resource use since the 2002-03 survey. Therefore, these estimates should be interpreted with some caution.
4. Construction and demolition wastes estimates are from the survey into alternatives from primary aggregates, commissioned by Communities and Local Government in 1999, 2001, 2003 and 2005. Figures for 2004 and 2006 includes estimates for non-aggregate wastes from this sector.
5. Sewage waste estimates are provided by Water UK.
6. Dredging wastes are from the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science.
7. Household waste is from local authority returns to the municipal waste management survey.

Table 2: Waste reused/recycled by source in 1998-99 and 2002-03

Million tonnes

	1998-99	*2002-03*
Agriculture	n/a	n/a
Mining and quarrying	—	—
Industrial	19.0	18.7
Commercial	5.7	12.1
Construction	24.4	45.5
Sewage	0.9	1.0
Dredgings	—	—
Household	2.1	3.7
Total	52.2	80.9

Sources:

As for Table 1, a waste type breakdown is not available.

Notes:

1. Recycling is defined as the reprocessing in a production process of the waste materials for the original purpose or for other purposes including organic recycling but excluding energy recovery. This includes composting and household recycling.
2. Estimates for recycled wastes are based on that which is reported as being sent for recycling and will include exported wastes.
3. Most of the generated waste from mining and quarrying activities are replaced into the resulting void which is currently classified as deposit into land. Estimates for mining wastes may change in light of implementation of the Mining Waste Directive.
4. Sewage sludge is predominantly spread on land for agricultural purposes.
5. Dredging wastes are disposed of at sea.

Table 3: Waste reused/recycled in 2004 and 2006

Million tonnes

	2004	*2006*
Paper and card	6.2	3.5
Animal and vegetable	6.5	9.5
General and mixed	5.6	3.1
Metal and scrap	4.1	8.9
Mineral	67.6	75.1
Chemicals other	6.9	12.1
Total	96.8	112.1

Sources:

1. Estimated from returns made by licensed waste operators to the Environment Agency, survey of exempt sites in 2006.
2. National Packaging Waste Database estimates derived from the National Waste Production Survey 2002-03 for 2004.
3. Survey of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates, Water UK.

Seals

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to encourage EU action to ban seal products from entering the EU. [233455]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Commission proposals for a ban on the import of seal products into the EU were discussed for the first time by the Council of Ministers on 20 October. We will work closely with the Council and other member states to ensure a workable ban is introduced as quickly as possible.

Sewers

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of new sewers were built in each of the last 10 years. [231939]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows how many miles of sewers were built as a result of new growth across the sewerage network by all the sewerage companies in England and Wales, in each of the last 10 years. This includes sewers built by developers and adopted by the sewerage companies

The table also shows how many miles of sewers, across the sewerage network have been replaced or renovated by all the sewerage companies in England and Wales, in each of the last 10 years. These figures are made up of critical and non critical, renovated and replaced sewers.

All figures relate to both gravity sewers and rising mains.

Ofwat holds this information in kilometres but the figures have been converted into miles.

Miles

	New sewers	Sewers	
	new growth	*renovated*	*replaced*
1998-99	1,000	[1]113	[1]50
1999-2000	771	[1]65	[1]53
2000-01	1,247	114	67
2001-02	728	103	62
2002-03	793	125	117
2003-04	631	93	80
2004-05	700	82	77
2005-06	626	91	88
2006-07	619	153	122
2007-08	627	131	127

[1] Figures do not include non critical sewer replacements or renovations as data were not collected for these years.

Note:

Conversion rate: 0.6214 mile per 1 km

The figures do not include private sewers in England and Wales which are not the responsibility of water and sewerage companies.

Slaughterhouses

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what practical support his Department provides for small abattoirs. [232495]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* I applaud the efforts of small abattoir owners in carving out for themselves high value niche markets based on locally produced good quality meat and meat products.

In support of these efforts DEFRA officials are actively engaged with the Food Standards Agency and Meat Hygiene Service in making sure that meat hygiene controls are proportionate to the risk and that meat hygiene charges, currently under review, do not disproportionately affect small abattoirs.

In addition DEFRA awarded a grant under the agricultural development scheme to the Association of Independent Meat Suppliers (AIMS) which is assisting them to develop an accredited quality assurance scheme for small and medium size abattoirs.

Veterinary Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was spent on veterinary services by his Department in each of the last five years. [231913]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA expenditure on veterinary services, including those services provided by the Animal Health Agency, Veterinary Laboratories Agency and Veterinary Medicines Directorate in each of the last five years was as follows:

	£ million
2003-04	117.9
2004-05	117.6
2005-06	130.9
2006-07	136.8
2007-08	132.5

Warm Front Scheme

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which model of boiler has been most commonly specified for installation through Warm Front grants in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 2008. [224907]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The boiler most commonly installed through the Warm Front scheme in years 2006-07 and 2007-08 is the Ideal Isar HE, an automatically controlled, fanned flue, 'A' rated combination boiler.

Boiler manufacturers were invited to enter a competitive tender process managed by Plumb Centre and overseen by DEFRA as part of the 2005 Warm Front retender process. Of the tenders received DEFRA chose Ideal as the preferred first choice boiler for the scheme.

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many applications for a Warm Front grant from residents of *(a)* Carshalton and Wallington constituency, *(b)* Greater London and *(c)* England were (i) received, (ii) accepted and (iii) declined in each year since 2000. [224966]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

Applications for Warm Front grants received, accepted and declined in each year since 2000 are shown in the following tables.

(a) Carshalton and Wallington

	Qualifying for assistance	*Not qualifying for assistance*	*Total*
2000-01	174	10	184
2001-02	184	15	199
2002-03	129	21	150
2003-04	369	36	405
2004-05	351	46	397

(a) Carshalton and Wallington

	Qualifying for assistance	*Not qualifying for assistance*	*Total*
2005-06	140	25	165
2006-07	173	48	221
2007-08	220	40	260
2008-09	121	34	155

(b) Greater London

	Qualifying for assistance	*Not qualifying for assistance*	*Total*
2000-01	23,689	942	24,631
2001-02	32,130	2,140	34,270
2002-03	21,786	3,100	24,886
2003-04	16,997	1,806	18,803
2004-05	20,831	2,517	23,348
2005-06	14,623	3,417	18,040
2006-07	15,436	5,407	20,843
2007-08	28,200	9,911	38,111
2008-09	11,435	3,814	15,249

(c) England all

	Qualifying for assistance	*Not qualifying for assistance*	*Total*
2000-01	191,720	8,904	200,624
2001-02	271,458	21,074	292,532
2002-03	211,903	19,190	231,093
2003-04	169,315	13,537	182,852
2004-05	183,074	16,349	199,423
2005-06	191,632	29,627	221,259
2006-07	287,041	68,946	355,987
2007-08	325,198	65,423	390,621
2008-09	144,233	28,236	172,469

Waste Management

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume of waste exported from the UK, broken down by *(a)* type of waste and *(b)* destination country in each of the last 10 years. [231667]

Jane Kennedy: Data on shipments of notifiable wastes are collected by Government agencies in the UK to comply with the Basel Convention. However, these wastes represent a very small (1 per cent.) proportion of total waste movements, and the majority is non-notifiable, or "green list" waste. While it is not a requirement for the "green list" forms to be reported to the Environment Agency in England and Wales, movements of green list waste can be estimated from HM Revenue and Customs trade database. However, these data are indicative, since in many cases the categories under which trade data are reported do not differentiate between exported wastes and products. Estimates of non-notifiable waste movements from trade data have only been made for 2006.

Total waste exported from the UK in 2006 is estimated to have been approximately 13 million tonnes. Of this, around 4.7 million tonnes was exported to within the EU, and 8.4 million tonnes outside the EU. Green list waste accounts for 99 per cent. of waste exports.

Of the estimated 12.9 million tonnes of exported green list waste, the majority was accounted for by metals (8.2 million tonnes) and paper (4 million tonnes). See following table for further details.

Types of waste exported from the UK

Waste type	*Exports (thousand tonnes)*
Metallic	8,181
Paper	3,996
Plastic	441
Glass	136
Wood	25
Other	129
Grand total	12,908

Waste Management: Gloucestershire

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent discussions he has had with Gloucestershire County Council on its waste strategy, with particular reference to its landfill capacity and landfill allowance trading scheme costs; [231558]

(2) whether his Department has discussed with Gloucestershire County Council the use of the Javelin Park site for waste purposes. [231559]

Jane Kennedy: The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs has not had any recent discussions with Gloucestershire county council on its waste strategy. The selection of sites for waste treatment purposes is a matter for the local authority in question, not DEFRA.

DEFRA officials have discussed Gloucestershire's bid for private finance initiative (PFI) credits and the extent to which it is compliant with PFI criteria. A discussion of sites has arisen in that context, but at this stage we cannot discuss specific locations as this may have an adverse impact on any potential negotiations.

Water Supply

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many miles of drinking water pipes have been replaced in each of the last 10 years. [231920]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows how many miles of pipes have been replaced or relined by all water companies in England and Wales, in each of the last 10 years.

Ofwat hold this information in kilometres but the figures have been calculated into miles. In some cases companies choose to reline pipes rather than replace them.

Water service

	Industry total (lengths in miles)		
	Renewed (i.e. replaced)	*Relined*	*Total mains rehab*
1998-99	2,419	1,180	3,599
1999-2000	2,536	1,314	3,851
2000-01	1,547	992	2,538
2001-02	1,739	1,414	3,153
2002-03	1,759	1,166	2,926
2003-04	1,693	1,147	2,840
2004-05	1,468	1,032	2,499
2005-06	1,679	991	2,670
2006-07	1,924	913	2,837
2007-08	1,910	709	2,619

Notes:
1.Conversion rate: 0.6214 mile per 1 km
2. Figures may not add up due to rounding

Weedkillers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 435W, on manure, what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the use of aminopyralid as a herbicide. [232474]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The pesticides safety directorate has informed the European Commission and member states of the developments in the UK on aminopyralid.

Wood: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department holds on trends in the level of sales of wood-burning stoves over the last 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the effect of such trends on levels of emissions targeted through his Department's air quality strategy. [232519]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* DEFRA does not hold information on the level of sales of wood-burning stoves over the last 12 months. The Government operate an extensive national air quality monitoring network, and data from this network give no indication that wood-burning appliances have had any measurable impact on air quality over the last 12 months.

The consultation on a Renewable Energy Strategy, issued by the Government in June, proposed a substantial increase in the use of biomass for heat, including log and other wood burning appliances. DEFRA is conducting research into the likely effect of this on air quality, and the results will be available shortly.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Education

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the Government's response to the Defence Committee's Third Report of Session 2004-05, on duty of care, Cm 6620, what the findings were of the research into the impact of poor basic skills on drop-out rates from Phase 1 and Phase 2 training; and what steps he has taken to enhance remedial education programmes in the Armed Services. [232612]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The intended research referred to in the question has been superseded by a three-year longitudinal study into the broader consequences of poor basic skills provision within the armed forces. The study commenced in October 2007, being sponsored jointly by the Ministry of Defence and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills.

Considerable progress has been made within the last three years in terms of formalising and enhancing the provision, for those that require it, of basic educational support within the armed forces. The strategic framework for this support is provided by the Armed Forces Basic Skills Policy (February 2007), which details how early assessment and systematic support are to be provided at the earliest stages for those that require it. The publication of the Defence Policy for Support of Specific Learning Difficulties (March 2007) provides detailed guidance on how to maximise the learning potential for those personnel diagnosed as falling within this category of need.

At the operational level, there is significantly more awareness across the armed forces of the importance of effective basic skills provision. Although practical delivery is provided by an expanded group of civilian basic skills tutors, there has been a concerted effort to increase the delivery skills of military educators. From 2007, an additional £8 million was provided over a three-year period for support to delivery. The adult learning inspectorate "Better Training" Report of 2007 acknowledges the progress made and makes special reference to the changes made in the Army's Common Military Syllabus in order to embed literacy and numeracy skills within the early stages of training.

Armed Forces: Intimidation

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many complaints by new recruits to the armed forces of bullying or harassment were *(a)* made, *(b)* upheld and *(c)* not upheld in 2007. [232346]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. When this work is complete I will write to my hon. Friend.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Joan Humble:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 3 November (Official Report, column 59W) about complaints of bullying and harassment by new recruits.

Complaints of bullying and harassment are maintained in individual unit logs and upwardly reported on a bi-annual basis covering the periods October-March and April-September. For the 12 month period from October 2006-September 2007, 169 complaints of bullying or harassment were made by new recruits to the Armed Forces. Of these 126 were upheld and 43 were not.

Armed Forces: Pensions

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings have been made by changes in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme that prevent regular reservists in receipt of a service pension from accruing call-up time for pension purposes. [233165]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The reserve forces pension scheme (RFPS) was introduced on 6 April 2005 for individuals who, on or after that date, were mobilised under Parts 4, 5 or 6 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 or entered commitments under Sections 24 or 25 of that Act. RFPS is a non-contributory, final salary scheme with no vesting period for preserved benefits. A new scheme for new entrants to the regular armed forces was also introduced on 6 April 2006—the armed forces pension scheme 2005 (AFPS 05).

On mobilisation, reservists are given a pension choice. They can join RFPS, join or remain with the state second pension (S2P) or remain with their civilian occupational pension arrangements. If they opt to join or remain with S2P, the MOD pays the contracted-in rate of national insurance and if they opt to remain with their civilian occupational pension arrangements, the MOD will pay the employer's contribution to that arrangement. Membership is not compulsory and those who join RFPS may opt out at any time.

Prior to the introduction to RFPS the armed forces arrangement which formed one of the options available to mobilised reservists was the armed forces pension scheme 1975 (AFPS 75). AFPS 75 has a two-year qualifying period for members' benefits. The only mobilised reserves who received anything from AFPS 75 were those with preserved AFPS 75 pension and those who were already in receipt of an AFPS 75 pension. Those mobilised from, for example, the Territorial Army, who had no previous AFPS 75 award, left with only notional benefits. These notional benefits could be transferred out of AFPS 75 into another occupational pension scheme or into S2P. AFPS 75 was closed to new entrants on 6 April 2005 when AFPS 05 and RFPS were introduced.

The introduction of RFPS means that all members receive preserved benefits for their reckonable service. If they have several periods of mobilised service for which they opt to be RFPS members, they will have a preserved award for each. These preserved benefits constitute a pension and a pension lump sum worth three times the pension. RFPS was not introduced to produce a saving: what it has introduced is equal treatment for all mobilised reserves who choose to join it.

Armed Forces: Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of armed forces personnel with post-traumatic stress disorder; and if he will make a statement. [232097]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The information requested is detailed in the UK Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity Reports, copies of which are available in the Library of the House and from the Defence Analytical Services and Advice website:

www.dasa.mod.uk

The Ministry of Defence recognises mental illnesses, including PTSD, as serious and disabling conditions, but also that many conditions can be treated successfully. Measures are in place to increase awareness at all levels, which include pre-and post-deployment briefing and the availability of support, assessment and (if required) treatment, both during and after deployments. This is available to all personnel, whether Regular or mobilised Reservists.

In Iraq and Afghanistan, we deploy highly skilled and experienced uniformed mental health nurses to provide the necessary in-theatre care and treatment for our personnel. If personnel do need to leave the operational environment, then their care continues either on an out- or in-patient basis in the UK.

There is a clear post-operational stress management policy in place across all services. Where practical, and this is in the main for formed units, we arrange for a decompression period during which servicemen can begin to mentally and physically unwind after their operational tour while having time to talk to colleagues and superiors—with whom they have deployed—about their experiences. The single services have their own arrangements to deal with individual augmentees.

Trauma Risk Management (TRiM) has been formally accepted and implemented by the Royal Marines, Royal Navy and the Army, and is being trialled in selected RAF units. TRiM is a model of peer-group mentoring and support for use in the aftermath of traumatic events. It trains non-medical staff to spot those who might have been affected by traumatic events in order that their peers and leaders can provide them with appropriate support or, where it is required, to refer them for specialist help.

Where further specialist help is required it is provided primarily through our 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMH) across the UK (plus satellite centres overseas), which provide out-patient mental health care. A wide range of psychiatric and psychological treatments are available, including medication, psychological therapies, and environmental adjustment where appropriate. The Defence Mental Health Services have extensive experience in psychological treatments for mental health problems in general and psychological injury in particular. In the relatively few cases where in-patient care is necessary, this is provided in dedicated psychiatric units under contract.

Finally, the families of personnel returning from operations are also offered presentations and issued with leaflets to alert them to the possible after-affects of an operational deployment. Welfare officers, Padres, and other associated organisations also provide information to families by e-mail, support groups, regimental systems and so on.

Armed Forces: Training

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the minimum supervisory ratio is for each establishment on the defence training estate to exercise its function in accordance with duty of care obligations; what progress has been made in meeting these requirements; and what the mechanism is for reviewing levels of supervision. [230631]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There is no set minimum supervisory ratio for each establishment on the training estate. All unit commanders are required to establish effective supervisory care regimes and to publish their supervisory arrangements in a supervisory care directive appropriate to the circumstances and conditions of the training being undertaken. The care requirement in all Phase 1 and 2 training establishments is determined on the basis of a unit commander's risk assessment which takes into account the particular factors at the unit such as the nature of the trainee population in terms of size, age and maturity and the location and type of the activity being undertaken. The care regime must establish appropriate levels of supervision and welfare cover not only during training but also out of hours, at weekends and during leave or stand-down periods.

Unit commanders are required to review regularly their supervisory requirements and liaise with Service Training Headquarters when seeking to adjust their manpower complements. All training establishments have now reviewed the number and disposition of supervisory staff against the supervisory care policy. In some areas a requirement for additional staff was identified and appropriate funding approved.

Arrangements for supervision are reviewed as part of inspection programmes carried out by the Defence Individual Training Capability (DITC) and Ofsted.

DA Notices

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many D-notices have been issued in each year since 1997-98. [233409]

Mr. Kevan Jones: D Notices were replaced by the Defence Advisory (DA) Notice System in 1993. The DA Notice System is overseen by the Defence Press and Broadcasting Advisory Committee (DPBAC), a joint Government/media body. Full details of the DA Notice System can be found on

www.dnotice.org.uk.

Since January 1997, the DPBAC Secretary has issued DA Notice letters of advice to all UK editors on the following occasions:

1997: No record of any letter being issued

1998: No record of any letter being issued

1999: Three letters

2000: Two letters

2001: Three letters

2002: One letter

2003: Two letters

2004: Two letters

2005: Two letters

2006: Two letters

2007: Seven letters

2008: Five letters to date

Defence Estates

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reasons implementation of the Military Lands Act byelaws at his Department's sites has not taken place in accordance with the published timetable. [232439]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Significant delays in the progression of the MOD Byelaws Review have occurred because objectors secured a judicial review of the implementation of the first of the new byelaws at AWE Aldermaston, which came into force on 31 May 2007.

Byelaws work was placed on hold, pending the decision by the High Court. Following the High Court's determination of the judicial review claim, which was substantially in the MOD's favour, the objectors successfully sought leave to appeal the High Court's decision to the Court of Appeal. The Court of Appeal hearing is scheduled for late November. The appeal is limited to issues relating to the manner and form of protests against nuclear weapons, and as a result ministerial approval has been given to restart the byelaw process for non-nuclear MOD sites across the UK.

Reviews have already commenced at some 96 sites including 13 sites designated under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 and it is expected that new byelaws will be submitted progressively for ministerial approval from April next year. An updated version of the project plan reflecting the new revised timetable will shortly be published on the Department's Byelaws Website:

www.defence-estates.mod.uk/byelaws/internet/intro.php

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 253W, on departmental buildings, in what form his Department records the *(a)* cost and *(b)* nature of departmental property refurbishment. [233413]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The term "refurbishment" is not one formally used by the MOD. Work which might be categorised as "refurbishment" can range from minor modifications and maintenance of buildings, to their complete restoration. Some "refurbishment" may also be addressed through private finance initiatives.

The information is therefore not held in the format requested.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's rest and recuperation leave policy for civilians working in operational theatres. [226985]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Yes, a copy will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many external consultants work for his Department. [232971]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Specific data on the number of consultants employed by the Ministry of Defence are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, MOD expenditure on external assistance, which includes management and other types of consultancy, has been reported to Parliament since 1995-96: summaries are available in the Library of the House.

Furthermore, information on organisations, including consultancy firms, paid £5 million or more by the MOD in each financial year is published in the UK Defence Statistics. Copies are also available in the Library.

Departmental Electricity

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on electricity bills *(a)* for its Whitehall offices and *(b)* in the UK as a whole in each month of each of the last five years. [233133]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In each month of the last five financial years, the following amounts were spent on electricity for the Department's Whitehall buildings; Main Building and the Old War Office Building.

2003-04

£ million

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
MB	0.03	0.043	0.043	0.043	0.045	0.042	0.044	0.044	0.046	0.046	0.044	0.045	0.515
OWO	0.041	0.036	0.036	0.034	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.035	0.036	0.037	0.035	0.04	0.437
Total	0.071	0.079	0.079	0.077	0.081	0.077	0.08	0.079	0.082	0.083	0.079	0.085	0.952

2004-05

£ million

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
MB	0.044	0.057	0.056	0.047	0.053	0.046	0.04	0.049	0.048	0.045	0.047	0.048	0.580
OWO	0.114	0.017	0.006	0.006	0.040	0.048	0.048	0.047	0.047	0.048	0.043	0.046	0.510
Total	0.158	0.074	0.062	0.053	0.093	0.094	0.088	0.096	0.095	0.093	0.09	0.094	1.090

2005-06

£ million

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
MB	0.057	0.057	0.056	0.061	0.160	0.128	0.126	0.126	0.135	0.137	0.127	0.095	1.265
OWO	0.053	0.051	0.056	0.057	0.057	0.054	0.055	0.052	0.053	0.053	0.053	0.052	0.646
Total	0.11	0.108	0.112	0.118	0.217	0.182	0.181	0.178	0.188	0.19	0.18	0.147	1.911

2006-07

£ million

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
MB	0.221	0.205	0.213	0.237	0.217	0.208	0.204	0.199	0.196	0.203	0.184	0.199	2.486
OWO	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0.024	0.052	0.054	0.049	0.078	0.257
Total	0.221	0.205	0.213	0.237	0.217	0.208	0.204	0.223	0.248	0.257	0.233	0.277	2.743

2007-08

£ million

	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Total*
MB	0.376	0.205	0.201	0.211	0.213	0.203	0.204	0.204	0.191	0.201	0.189	0.194	2.592
OWO	0.051	0.053	0.054	0.055	0.055	0.042	0.041	0.015	0.050	0.053	0.050	0.052	0.571
Total	0.427	0.258	0.255	0.266	0.268	0.245	0.245	0.219	0.241	0.254	0.239	0.246	3.163

Although the Department centrally records annual expenditure on electricity worldwide, it would incur disproportionate cost to identify the amounts spent for individual countries, including the UK, and to provide a breakdown by month.

The total spent worldwide in each of the last five financial years, excluding that on overseas operations, such as those in Iraq and Afghanistan, is as follows:

£ million

	Financial year				
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Worldwide total	93	108	135	162	160

These figures do not include expenditure by the MOD's Trading Funds, which are not included within the MOD's accounting boundary.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228758]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The following table shows the intake of civilian personnel aged 55 and above, and 60 and above for 2007-08, in respect of headcount and percentage of total.

2007-08

	Headcount	*Percentage*
Civilian personnel intake aged 55 and above	480	8.9
Civilian personnel intake aged 60 and above	180	3.3
Total civilian personnel intake	5,340	—

Notes:

1. All numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

2. These figures include civilian intake data for the top level budgets and trading funds, but exclude data for locally engaged civilians and royal fleet auxiliary personnel for whom intake data by age are not known.

Ex-servicemen: Employment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the proportion of military personnel from the North East returning from active duty in Iraq and Afghanistan which has been able to find alternative employment on leaving the armed forces in each of the last three years. [232795]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Information on alternative employment of military personnel leaving the armed forces and the residential location of military personnel on discharge is not held centrally and therefore it is not possible to provide the requested estimate without incurring disproportionate cost.

The Department does however hold employment statistics, in six-monthly tranches, for those service leavers seeking employment and using the services of the MOD's resettlement contract, which is known as the Career Transition Partnership. For the last three years available, from October 2004 to September 2007, the percentage of service leavers in employment within six months of discharge is an overall 94.7 per cent.

Gurkhas

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Gurkhas joined the British Army prior to 1 May 1997; and what estimate he has made of the number of dependants of Gurkhas who served in the British Army prior to that date. [233749]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Brigade of Gurkhas became part of the British Army on 1 January 1948, following Indian independence. Between 1948 and 1997, some 30,100 Nepalese men joined the Brigade.

There are no data readily available to give a reliable estimate of the number of dependants for this group of Gurkha veterans.

Iraq: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the total cost to date has been of the deployment of forces in *(a)* Iraq and *(b)* Afghanistan. [233558]

Mr. Hutton: MOD identifies the costs of operations in terms of the net additional costs it has incurred, that is the costs that the Department would have incurred regardless of the operation taking place, such as wages and salaries, are not included. Savings on activities that have not occurred because of the operation—training exercises for example—are also taken into account in arriving at the net figures.

The total annual audited cost of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are set out as follows:

Iraq

£ million

	Operations in Iraq—resource costs	*Expenditure on capital equipment*	*Total*
2002-03	629	218	847
2003-04	1,051	260	1,311
2004-05	747	163	910
2005-06	798	160	958
2006-07	787	169	956
2007-08	1,055	402	1,457
Total to date	5,067	1,372	6,439

Afghanistan

£ million

	Operations in Afghanistan—resource costs	*Expenditure on capital equipment*	*Total*
2001-02	187	34	221
2002-03	236	75	311
2003-04	36	10	46
2004-05	58	9	67
2005-06	148	51	199
2006-07	560	178	738
2007-08	1,071	433	1,504
Total to date	2,296	790	3,086

The forecast of spend for Iraq and Afghanistan in 2008-09 will be bid for in the Winter Supplementary Estimates which is due to be published in mid-November.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what cost control regime applies to the joint strike fighter programme; and if he will make a statement. [233596]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Cost control for the UK contribution to the joint strike fighter system development and demonstration phase is exercised through a US/UK Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which fixes our contribution at $2 billion. The UK has an incremental acquisition strategy for aircraft production and through life support in accordance with the production, sustainment and follow on development MOU. The UK can purchase aircraft when required to meet our affordability and capability requirements.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the target offtake of the joint strike fighter is; and what it was estimated to be in 2004. [233597]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK has adopted an incremental acquisition strategy to procure and support JCA. The number that will be acquired will be set when the programme reaches sufficient maturity and will also be shaped by defence needs at the time.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the joint strike fighter will be able to carry and fire *(a)* Storm Shadow and *(b)* Brimstone. [233598]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The joint strike fighter (JSF) will enter into UK service with a baseline air to air and precision air to ground capability. Decisions on the integration of future weapons capabilities have yet to be taken but under current planning assumptions both will be integrated on JSF.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which UK weapons systems are to be fully integrated to the joint strike fighter. [233599]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The Advanced Short Range Air-to-Air Missile (ASRAAM) and Paveway IV are being fully integrated into joint strike fighter during the system development and demonstration phase of the programme.

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the total cost of the joint strike fighter programme. [233600]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The UK's total procurement cost is likely to be up to £10 billion, depending on the number and timing of aircraft required. Through life support for joint combat aircraft will also be shaped by the number and timing of aircraft deliveries and will be announced when the programme is sufficiently mature.

National Recognition of our Armed Forces Inquiry

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the responses of those listed as consulted in Appendix 2 of the Report of Inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces by the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford are published. [231946]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The responses of those consulted in Appendix 2 of the Report of Inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) has not been published as the consultations were conducted on a non-attributable basis.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the list of people consulted in Appendix 2 of the Report of Inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces by the hon. Member for Grantham and Stamford is complete. [231947]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I can confirm that the list of people and groups consulted in Appendix 2 of the Report of Inquiry into the National Recognition of the Armed Forces by my hon. Friend the Member for Grantham and Stamford (Mr. Davies) is complete.

Warships

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current out-of-service dates are for *(a)* HMS Walney, *(b)* HMS Penzance, *(c)* HMS Pembroke, *(d)* HMS Grimsby, *(e)* HMS Bangor, *(f)* HMS Ramsey, *(g)* HMS Blyth, *(h)* HMS Shoreham, *(i)* HMS Ledbury, *(j)* HMS Cattistock, *(k)* HMS Brocklesbury, *(l)* HMS Middleton, *(m)* HMS Chiddingfold, *(n)* HMS Atherstone, *(o)* HMS Hurworth and *(p)* HMS Quorn. [233698]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 September 2007, *Official Report*, column 1632W.

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current out-of-service dates are for *(a)* HMS Ark Royal, *(b)* HMS Illustrious, *(c)* HMS Invincible, *(d)* HMS Exeter, *(e)* HMS Southampton, *(f)* HMS Nottingham, *(g)* HMS Liverpool, *(h)* HMS Manchester, *(i)* HMS Gloucester, *(j)* HMS Edinburgh, *(k)* HMS York, *(l)* HMS Ocean, *(m)* HMS Albion and *(n)* HMS Bulwark. [233699]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Ark Royal	2012
HMS Illustrious	2015
HMS Invincible	2010
HMS Exeter	2009
HMS Southampton	2009
HMS Nottingham	2010
HMS Liverpool	2012
HMS Manchester	2011
HMS Gloucester	2011
HMS Edinburgh	2013
HMS York	2012
HMS Ocean	2022
HMS Albion	2033
HMS Bulwark	2034

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current out-of-service dates are for *(a)* HMS Argyll, *(b)* HMS Lancaster, *(c)* HMS Iron Duke, *(d)* HMS Monmouth, *(e)* HMS Montrose, *(f)* HMS Westminster, *(g)* HMS Northumberland, *(h)* HMS Richmond, (i) HMS Somerset, (j) HMS Sutherland, *(k)* HMS Portland, *(l)* HMS Kent and *(m)* HMS St Albans. [233700]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Argyll	2023
HMS Lancaster	2024
HMS Iron Duke	2025
HMS Monmouth	2026
HMS Montrose	2027
HMS Westminster	2028
HMS Northumberland	2029
HMS Richmond	2030
HMS Somerset	2031
HMS Sutherland	2033
HMS Portland	2035
HMS Kent	2034
HMS St Albans	2036

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current out-of-service dates are for *(a)* HMS Cornwall, *(b)* HMS Cumberland, *(c)* HMS Campbeltown and *(d)* HMS Chatham. [233701]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Our present planning assumptions, which are routinely updated as required, are as follows:

Name	*Out-of-service date*
HMS Cornwall	2019
HMS Cumberland	2021
HMS Campbeltown	2020
HMS Chatham	2022

TREASURY

Bank of England

Mr. Brady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what non-routine interventions and injections of liquidity by his Department or the Bank of England into the financial markets there have been since 1 August 2007; and what the *(a)* date, *(b)* amount and *(c)* date on which the action was made public was in each case. [227000]

Ian Pearson: The comprehensive financial support package announced on 8 October and the specific details announced on 13 October detail the steps taken to ensure financial stability, including the extension of the Special Liquidity Scheme providing short-term liquidity.

The provision of liquidity to the financial markets is a matter for the Bank of England. Details of most of the Bank's scheduled operations are published on its website.

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many complaints were received by the Financial Ombudsman Service on *(a)* bank charges and *(b)* credit card charges in each year since 1997; what recent discussions (i) he, (ii) Ministers in his Department and (iii) officials in his Department have had with the Financial Ombudsman Service on these issues; and if he will make a statement. [233905]

Ian Pearson: The day to day operations of the Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) are independent from Government control and influence.

Ministers and officials meet the FOS on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Banks

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on which occasions *(a)* he and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have met senior executives of (i) Lloyds TSB, (ii) HBOS and (iii) Bradford and Bingley in each of the last 12 months. [231781]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Bradford and Bingley

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* duration and *(b)* methodology of the sale process for Bradford and Bingley's retail deposit business and branch network was; and whether such procedures allowed for the gathering of formal asset evaluation advice. [228500]

Ian Pearson: The sale process took place on 27 and 28 September 2008. In conjunction with our legal and financial advisors we assessed the bids received on the basis of how far they met our objectives of maintaining financial stability, protecting depositors and ensuring value for money for taxpayers.

Child Care Tax Credit

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what sampling checks are made with child care providers to check that tax credit claimants are genuinely paying for and using child care services. [233088]

Mr. Timms: Each year, HMRC undertakes a full compliance inquiry into a random selection of tax credits claims. As part of this exercise, in claims where a contribution towards child care has been claimed, they will check with the child care provider to ensure that the amount claimed is correct. In addition, HMRC risk assess all tax credits claims and undertake a compliance examination where sufficient risk is identified. Where it is necessary to carry out a compliance inquiry into a claim that contains help towards child care costs, they will check if appropriate with the provider any amounts of child care being claimed.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [231330]

Angela Eagle: The information requested is as follows:

Department	*Press officers*	*Communications officers*
HMT	[1]9	[2]13
OGC	2	
OGCBuying Solutions	3	
DMO	1	

[1] In addition there is currently one vacancy

[2] This includes 13 publishing staff

Departmental Personnel

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether any permanent staff within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies are classified as pre-surplus. [233645]

Angela Eagle: No staff at HM Treasury, DMO, OGC Buying Solutions or OGC are classified as pre-surplus.

Economic Situation

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what research his Department *(a)* has commissioned, *(b)* plans to commission and *(c)* has evaluated on the causes of the current international financial turbulence; when his Department last undertook a review of causes of the international financial turbulence that took into account (i) UK and (ii) international research; and if he will make a statement. [229513]

Ian Pearson: The ongoing turbulence has affected financial markets around the world and requires an international response. In April this year the Financial Stability Forum provided the G7 with a detailed report on the causes of the crisis and a comprehensive set of recommendations for strengthening the financial system for the future. Going forward, the FSF, with other multilateral institutions, will continue to play a central role in shaping the international response to the crisis.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many staff of each *(a)* sex, *(b)* age and *(c)* grade were employed by the Financial Services Authority on (i) 31 March 2006 and (ii) 31 March 2008; [233897]

(2) how much officials employed by the Financial Services Authority have received in bonuses in each of the last three financial years for which figures are available; [233921]

(3) what criteria are used to determine whether staff employed by the Financial Services Authority receive a bonus; and if he will make a statement. [233922]

Ian Pearson: These matters are the responsibility of the FSA, whose day to day operations are independent from Government control and influence.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the Financial Services Authority in each week since June 2007; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (A) administrative and (B) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [233920]

Ian Pearson: Ministers and officials meet the FSA on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of issues. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Financial Services: Disadvantaged

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what policies have been *(a)* considered and *(b)* implemented by his Department's Financial Inclusion Team since its establishment. [231799]

Ian Pearson: The Government's policies to increase financial inclusion were set out in 'Financial inclusion: an action plan for 2008-11'.

Previous Government documents on financial inclusion, including 'Promoting financial inclusion', published in December 2004 and 'Financial inclusion: the way forward' published in March 2007 show how the Government have developed their financial inclusion policies over time.

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings have been held between his Department's Financial Inclusion Team and financial service providers since the inception of the team; what matters were discussed; and if he will make a statement. [231800]

Ian Pearson: Officials from the Treasury meet and correspond with financial services providers on a regular basis to discuss a wide range of financial inclusion issues.

Government Departments: Consultants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer in what circumstances the use of private sector consultants by Government Departments can be paid for from capital rather than revenue budgets. [233399]

Angela Eagle: Government Departments apply UK accounting standards as adapted and interpreted by the Government Financial Reporting Manual (FReM). Expenditure on consultancy can only be capitalised where such accounting treatment is specifically allowed for by, either Financial Reporting Standard (FRS) 15, "Tangible fixed assets", or FRS 10, "Goodwill and Intangible Assets".

HM Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Mr. Salmond: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Operating Officer of HM Revenue and Customs plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan dated *(a)* 15 April 2008, *(b)* 9 July 2008 and *(c)* 19 September 2008 on his constituent Mr. J McLaren. [233091]

Mr. Timms: I understand that the National Insurance Contributions Office wrote to the hon. Member earlier today. HM Revenue and Customs apologise for the delay in doing so.

Housing: Valuation

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 800W, on housing: valuation, if he will rank each individual locality in each valuation area of Greater London according to the value significance of its co-efficient. [232751]

Mr. Timms: A list of locality reference numbers, ranked in order of value significance by valuation area, has been placed in the Library. The list is based on data extracted between 9 and 11 September 2008.

Information that identifies the extent of each locality can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Investment Income

Mr. Lilley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what rate of dividend is to be payable on the preference capital provided to banks. [228453]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The Treasury will receive a coupon of 12 per cent. on preference shares subscribed by the Government in the banks participating in the Government's recapitalisation scheme.

Landsbanki Bank

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guarantees his Department has extended to depositors with Landsbanki Guernsey; and if he will make a statement. [231887]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in Guernsey are a matter for the Government of Guernsey.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the UK Government will represent the Crown dependencies in their negotiations with the Icelandic authorities.

Mortgages

Anne Moffat: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent assessment he has made of the support being offered by the banks recapitalised with public funds to mortgage holders. [229959]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* As part of its investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme, including maintaining, over the next three years, the availability and active marketing of competitively-priced lending to homeowners at 2007 levels.

The Government expect banks to support schemes to help people struggling with mortgage payments to stay in their homes, and to support the expansion of financial capability initiatives.

Public Finance

Mr. Clifton-Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the savings ratio was in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2007. [232341]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question requesting the saving ratio in a) 1997 and b) 2007. (232341)

Table 1 shows the annual household saving ratio from 1987 to 2007. In 1997, it was 9.6 per cent and in 2007, it was 2.5 per cent.

Table 1

	Saving ratio (percentage)
1987	5.4
1988	3.9
1989	5.7
1990	8.1
1991	10.2
1992	11.8
1993	10.9
1994	9.3
1995	10.3
1996	9.4
1997	9.6
1998	7.4
1999	5.2
2000	4.7
2001	6.1
2002	4.8
2003	5.1
2004	4.0
2005	5.1
2006	4.2
2007	2.5

Valuation Office: Databases

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Beckenham, of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 601W, on the Valuation Office: databases, what the timetable is for the database alignment exercise to be completed. [232658]

Mr. Timms: The work between Valuation Office Agency (VOA) and Ordnance Survey (OS) to align respective databases is a continuous improvement process.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Algeria: Religious Freedom

Mr. Wareing: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Algerian counterpart in respect of that government's policy towards its Christian community; and if he will make a statement. [229753]

Bill Rammell: Neither I nor my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary have had any discussions with our Algerian counterparts on this issue, but I am aware of reports emerging from Algeria concerning the closure of 'unauthorised' churches and the detention of Christians accused of evangelisation. On 22 July, Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials held a meeting with a range of non-governmental organisations concerned about restrictions on the freedom of religion and belief across the world, including Algeria. Our ambassador raised this issue with the Algerian Ministry of Foreign Affairs on 23 July 2008.

The right to freedom of religion and belief in Algeria was raised on 14 April during Algeria's examination under the UN Human Rights Council's Universal Periodic Review, which the UK participated in. Additionally, the EU-Algeria Association Agreement, which came into force in September 2005, restates that the principles and fundamental human rights set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights is an essential part of the agreement and must be followed by both signatories. The EU will continue to raise questions on human rights in Algeria.

We continue to monitor the enforcement of religious laws in Algeria, and are in contact with Christian leaders in Algiers, raising individual cases when it is appropriate.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Armed Conflict

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of trends in the level of attacks on villages in Congo by the Lords Resistance Army (LRA); and what his policy is on the execution of the International Criminal Court warrants issued for four LRA leaders. [231215]

Bill Rammell: The Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) poses an increasingly serious threat to security in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). The group carried out numerous attacks in eastern DRC in September and October 2008, targeting civilians and members of the military. The DRC armed forces have commenced an operation to contain the LRA, with the support of UN peacekeepers.

The UK strongly supports the International Criminal Court (ICC) and urges all States Parties to co-operate fully with the Court, including by executing ICC arrest warrants. We believe that justice is an essential part of sustainable peace and it is vital that those responsible for the terrible crimes committed during the conflict in northern Uganda are held to account. Resolution of the conflict in Uganda must be compatible with the Rome Statute.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much the UK has contributed to the operation of Monuc in the Democratic Republic of Congo in each of the last two years; and what the estimated contribution will be for the next year. [231216]

Gillian Merron: The UK contributes 7.8 per cent. of the cost of MONUC (UN mission to the Democratic Republic of Congo) through its assessed payments to the UN's peacekeeping budget, and also contributes through the secondment of UK military staff. During financial year 2006-07 the UK contributed £45,034,024 to MONUC, and funded six military secondees at a cost of £620,972. In 2007-08 the UK contributed £39,728,447 to MONUC, and funded six military secondees at a cost of £1,077,271. During the current financial year, we expect to contribute around £45 million through assessed costs, and £850,000 through discretionary spending on five military secondees. MONUC's current mandate expires in December 2008 and, provided it is renewed, the budget for next financial year will be agreed by UN member states at the UN's fifth Committee in June 2009.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [233191]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs 16 full-time press officers (15 plus one job-share).

Hamas

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has had discussions with Hamas in *(a)* Gaza and *(b)* the West Bank. [227972]

Bill Rammell: The UK has not been involved in any political dialogue with Hamas since 2005. However, the Government had consular discussions with Hamas members in 2007 regarding the kidnap of British journalist Alan Johnston.

We have consistently said that we are prepared to work with Hamas if they adhere to the criteria set by the Quartet in January 2006. This means Hamas must: commit to non-violence; recognise the right of Israel to exist; recognise previous agreements signed by the Palestinian National Authority. These conditions are entirely reasonable.

Jack McConnell

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) whether the post to which Jack McConnell has been appointed is subject to the Ministerial code; and if he will make a statement. [231269]

(2) whether the post to which Mr Jack McConnell has been appointed is an office of profit under the Crown; and if he will make a statement. [231270]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked Jack McConnell MSP to become his Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms. Mr. McConnell will be based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), working with the FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence. This appointment is not an office of profit. Nor is it subject to the ministerial code.

Japan: Whales

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his Japanese counterpart on whale hunting. [228966]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has had no recent discussions with his Japanese counterpart on this subject.

The Government have consistently voiced its opposition to Japanese 'scientific' whaling. Like many members of the International Whaling Commission (IWC), the UK does not believe that scientific research can justify Japan's lethal whaling programme. The Government make clear this opposition not only at the meetings of the IWC, but also on a bilateral basis. My noble Friend the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Malloch Brown, raised this matter with the Japanese Foreign Minister in January this year, and our embassy in Tokyo makes the UK's position clear to the Japanese authorities on a regular basis.

Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Government has had talks with the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam in Sri Lanka. [227981]

Bill Rammell: There have been very infrequent informal contacts with representatives of the political wing of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE). We use a variety of means to urge all parties to the conflict to respect international humanitarian law and pursue a political settlement, including contact with groups and partners with links to or influence over the LTTE.

North Korea: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his United States counterpart on the political situation in North Korea. [228210]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary regularly discusses North Korea with his American counterpart. Our embassy in Washington is also in frequent contact with US officials. Our diplomats in Seoul, Tokyo and Pyongyang discuss North Korea on a regular basis with American representatives locally.

Press

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost of the press offices of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies was in each year since 1996-97; what the cost was for each quarter since 1 April 2007; and if he will make a statement. [189652]

Gillian Merron: The annual cost of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office press office totalled £2,493,112 in the 2006-07 financial year, £1,997,897 in 2005-06, £1,744,974 in 2004-05 and £1,860,206 in 2003-04. The latest financial year for which figures are available is 2006-07; there are no records of press office costs pre-2003. Only figures for complete financial years can be provided.

These figures are calculated on the administration costs of the press office and the cost of staff in each year, which includes basic pay, national insurance, superannuation and the London location allowance.

Wilton Park, an executive agency of the FCO, does not employ any press officers.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many press office staff were employed by *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies (i) in each year since 1996-97 and (ii) at the latest date for which information is available. [189653]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) employed 23 full-time and two part-time (job-share) press officers in the 2007-08 financial year, 36 press officers in 2006-07, 30 in 2005-06, 26 plus one part-time officer in 2004-05 and 41 in 2003-04. There are no records for the number of press officers pre-2003.

Wilton Park, an executive agency of the FCO, does not employ any press officers.

Rendition

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2197W, on rendition, on what date the flight records which cover the period when the two cases of rendition occurred were disposed of. [224457]

Bill Rammell: We do not have the precise date on which these records were destroyed. Customs and daily occurrence logs on Diego Garcia are generally held for around five years, and general declarations made by all aircraft on arrival are generally held for around three years.

Russia: Foreign Relations

Mr. Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government has put forward in recent NATO discussions on managing relationships and arrangements with Russia. [232600]

Caroline Flint: The UK wants a constructive relationship between the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) and Russia. Since 2002 the NATO-Russia Council (NRC) has promoted consultation and co-operation on a wide range of security issues. However, Russia's disproportionate actions in Georgia have put this relationship under considerable strain. NATO Foreign Ministers made clear on 19 August that there could be no business as usual with Russia. Ambassadorial level meetings of the NRC have been suspended and a number of NATO-Russia activities have been postponed.

However, we have made clear that it is important that NATO keeps open lines of communication for hard-headed engagement with Russia, and continues co-operation where it is of strong benefit to the Alliance, particularly on Afghanistan, Counter-Narcotics and Counter-Terrorism.

Russia must show it is prepared to meet its commitments under the 12 August and 8 September agreements, brokered by President Sarkozy. The extent to which Russia meets these commitments will determine how the relationship between NATO and Russia develops.

Somalia: Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of the UN arms embargo on Somalia. [228182]

Gillian Merron: The UN Monitoring Group on Somalia, established under UN Security Resolution 1519 (2003), is responsible for monitoring the arms embargo on Somalia. In its latest report, published on 24 April 2008, the Group established that violations of the arms embargo continued during the period of the report, from October 2007 to April 2008. The Group reported that weapons were entering Somalia from other countries and from the region, by land and sea.

The Monitoring Group identified a number of recommendations in order to strengthen the effectiveness of the arms embargo, including implementation of targeted measures against those who breach the arms embargo. These recommendations are being considered by the UN.

Sudan: Armed Conflict

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the level of activity of Chadian-armed opposition groups based in Darfur. [228189]

Gillian Merron: There are a larger number of armed groups, militias and bandits operating in Darfur. It is unclear who is supporting which groups. We repeatedly call on the Governments of Sudan and Chad to adhere to the Dakar agreement of 13 March 2008, which commits both governments to stop supporting each other's armed groups. The UK is an observer to the Dakar Contact Group, which monitors the implementation of this agreement.

Sudan: Arms Trade

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of arms trading with Sudan with specific reference to arms from *(a)* Iran and *(b)* Russia; and what assessment he has made of the effects of such trade on the situation in Darfur. [230992]

Bill Rammell: Iran has self-documented that it exported over $12 million worth of weapons to Sudan since 2004. Russia has reported transferring 33 military aircraft to Sudan since 2004 and has self-reported a further $5,567 in arms sales to Sudan that does not include aircraft.

We note that the latest report, published on 3 October 2007, of the UN Panel of Experts which monitors the UN arms embargo on Darfur identifies violations of the embargo. The UK continues to request that the UN extend its arms embargo on Darfur to all of Sudan, but not all Security Council members agree. The EU has implemented an arms embargo on the whole of Sudan via Common Position 2005/411/CFSP.

Sudan: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Darfur, with reference to the incidence of human rights abuses; and if he will make a statement. [228181]

Gillian Merron: We remain deeply concerned by the human rights situation in Darfur and the continued incidences of human rights abuses. We continue to monitor and lobby to improve the application of human rights in Sudan and to end impunity for crimes committed in Darfur. We welcome the 24 September renewal of the mandate of Dr Sima Samar, the UN Special Rapporteur for Human Rights in Sudan and look forward to Dr Samar's next report and further discussions in the Human Rights Council in June 2009.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government has taken to encourage other countries to provide aid and assistance to the people of Sudan. [231000]

Gillian Merron: We have constant contact with members of the international community in Sudan, in the UK, and via our embassies worldwide. We regularly lobby for other countries to follow our lead in providing aid and assistance to the Sudanese people.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of Sudan on the peace process in Darfur. [228186]

Gillian Merron: On 27 September, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha in New York. They discussed the Darfur peace process, urged progress on co-operation with the International Criminal Court, allowing full deployment of the African Union Peacekeeping Mission for full humanitarian access and working for wider political reform in Sudan, including free and fair elections in 2009.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what recent steps the Government has taken to promote a peaceful resolution in Sudan; [230998]

(2) what steps the Government has taken to monitor recent events in Sudan. [230999]

Gillian Merron: The Government are committed to a peaceful and prosperous Sudan. We continuously monitor events and take steps to promote a peaceful resolution in Sudan. Our embassy in Khartoum, our contacts with partners, international organisations, (such as the United Nations and the African Union), and non-governmental organisations, and our direct contacts with the government of Sudan inform our work.

Throughout our engagement, we press strongly for full implementation of the comprehensive peace agreement between the north and south, progress on the Darfur political process and support to the deployment of the AU-UN Mission in Darfur (UNAMID). My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister and Foreign Secretary, and my Noble Friend the Minister for Asia, Africa and the UN, Lord Malloch-Brown, reiterated these messages with other UN member states at the UN General Assembly in the week of 22-27 September. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary also conveyed these messages directly to Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha in New York on 27 September 2008.

Yemen: Terrorism

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the extent of the operations in Yemen of *(a)* al Qaeda in the south of the Arabian Peninsula and *(b)* the Yemen Soldiers Brigade faction; and what assessment he has made of the threat that such activities pose to the UK. [225589]

David Miliband: We are aware that members of al-Qaeda and other similar groups continue to operate in Yemen. We judge that there is a high threat from terrorism in Yemen including against western interests. Our travel advice provides further details, including on areas for which we advise against all non-essential travel.

We are working with the Government of Yemen to counter the threat of terrorism to the UK from Yemen and to UK interests in Yemen. In the short-term we are focused on protecting British interests in a volatile security environment. In the longer-term we are developing joint work on preventing terrorism by tackling the radicalisation of individuals and reducing the threat to the UK and UK interests through disrupting terrorists and their operations.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Prime Minister how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years have been recruited to work in his Office in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228746]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 22W.

EDF Energy

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Prime Minister what contracts his Office has with EDF; and how much his Office paid to EDF in each of the last 10 years, broken down by the purpose of the payment. [221853]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich East (Mr. Watson) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 336W.

HEALTH

Ambulance Services: Standards

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce ambulance service response time targets at a local level. [233942]

Mr. Bradshaw: Emergency ambulance response time data are collected centrally by the Department at ambulance trust level. The Department currently has no plans to change the level at which these data are collected. It is a matter for the local national health service to ensure there is appropriate provision of emergency services that are responsive to people's needs.

Arthritis: Drugs

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of patients with rheumatoid arthritis ineligible for treatment with anti-TNF drugs consequent on the recent determination on sequential use made by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. [233175]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently undertaking an appraisal of the sequential use of anti-TNF drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE has not yet issued final guidance.

Cancer

Mr. Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer patients there were for *(a)* England and *(b)* each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority, broken down by form of the disease in each financial year from 1997 to 2007. [230976]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many cancer patients there were in each financial year from 1997 to 2007 for (a) England and (b) each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority, broken down by form of the disease. [230976]

A table showing the number of newly diagnosed cases of cancer for each calendar year from 1997 to 2006 (latest available year) for the most common cancers, 'all cancers excluding non-melanoma skin cancer' and 'other cancers' for (a) England and (b) each primary care trust within the South West Strategic Health Authority has been placed in the House of Commons library.

Diseases: Africa

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the risks to public health from rodent-based arenaviruses originating in Africa. [232689]

Dawn Primarolo: Rodent-based arena viruses originating in Africa can cause serious human disease that can be further spread from person to person. An example of such a disease is Lassa fever. Patients in whom such an infection is confirmed, or in whom such infection is suspected, are immediately transferred to a specialist high security infectious disease unit in which the highest biological containment measures can be applied. The Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens has issued guidance on the care of patients infected with such viruses and on the highest containment measures that must be taken when handling such dangerous pathogens, for example in a laboratory setting, to minimise the risk of infection.

Specialist diagnostic facilities are provided for the detection and laboratory confirmation of such infections by the Health Protection Agency within its high containment laboratories.

Rodent-based arena viruses are also endemic in other parts of the world, such as South America, and are also known to cause serious human disease.

For those travelling from the UK to areas where arena viruses are endemic, advice is provided by the National Travel Health Network and Centre and the Health Protection Agency and is published on their websites.

General Practitioners

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many GP referrals there have been to consultants within the NHS in each of the last 10 years. [233696]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers of general practitioner (GP) referrals to consultants within the national health service in England in each of the last 10 years are set out in the following table.

GP written referrals for first out-patient appointment (consultant led): All specialties. England provider based

	Number of GP referrals made
1997-98	8,991,722
1998-99	9,139,785
1999-00	9,141,425
2000-01	9,362,770
2001-02	9,470,342
2002-03	9,655,874
2003-04	9,802,237
2004-05	9,776,914
2005-06	9,785,960
2006-07	9,337,136
2007-08	9,639,029

Source:
Department of Health, QM08, KH09, QAR (Quarterly Activity Return).

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the potential loss of revenue to dispensing doctors of the proposals contained in the Pharmacy White Paper; and what assessment he has made of the effects on rural general practices of the removal of dispensing rights to patients living in rural areas; [232992]

(2) what the projected cost is of each of the four proposed options for dispensing doctors outlined in the Pharmacy White Paper; [233203]

(3) what plans he has to amend the basis on which general practitioners in rural areas can dispense medicines and other products; [233204]

(4) what plans he has to ensure that rural communities are not adversely affected by proposed changes to dispensing arrangements for doctors; and if he will make a statement. [233206]

Phil Hope: The factors for consideration are set out in the consultation paper, "Pharmacy in England: Building on strengths—delivering the future—proposals for legislative change", published on 27 August 2008.

As part of this consultation, we have put forward a range of options, including the option of leaving general practitioner dispensing arrangements unchanged, on which we are seeking views. The impact assessments, which have been published as part of the consultation, consider the likely effects of each of the options available.

We have no preferred option at this stage nor have we come to a view as to whether any reform of these particular arrangements is necessary.

The consultation paper and associated impact assessments have already been placed in the Library and are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_087324

Health: Research

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Medical Research Council spent on research in each of the last five years; and what proportion of that money was spent on each (i) broad area of research and (ii) disease or condition. [233291]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department's national health service research and development budget for the five years from 2002-03 has been:

	£ million
2002-03	506
2003-04	533
2004-05	601
2005-06	617
2006-07	659

The main part of that budget has been devolved to and managed by NHS organisations. Those organisations have accounted for their use of the allocations received from the Department in an annual research and development report. The reports estimate total, aggregated expenditure on the national priority areas shown in the following table.

Spend of NHS support funding on priorities

£ million

	2002-03	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*
Cancer	103.08	112.89	122.53	137.35	129.50
Coronary heart disease	55.31	53.01	59.03	58.56	58.15
Children's services	51.40	52.84	54.60	57.26	57.06
Diabetes	17.50	18.17	19.29	21.37	21.75
Emergency care	9.56	9.69	11.07	15.89	11.21
Mental health	45.53	48.37	51.66	52.54	54.44
Older people	34.01	39.39	39.89	42.93	38.46
Reducing inequalities	18.12	18.44	19.31	17.42	16.95
Waiting times	3.68	3.63	3.85	4.63	2.87
Improving the patient experience	79.50	46.26	49.74	49.52	51.44
Building capacity	17.83	18.98	20.40	19.56	17.86
Renal disease	11.10	10.58	10.84	10.71	13.22

Spend of NHS support funding on priorities

	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Respiratory disease	23.53	29.13	28.72	30.57	33.26
Chronic neurological disease	n/a	29.84	26.98	26.01	28.32
Genetics	n/a	25.09	30.91	32.79	32.43
Degenerative neurological disorders	n/a	n/a	18.44	16.47	19.41
Medicines for children	n/a	n/a	15.69	17.42	21.53
Public health	n/a	n/a	15.14	14.34	13.68
Stroke	n/a	n/a	9.01	9.64	9.87
Primary Care	22.01	18.45	20.46	22.24	23.60

n/a = Not available

Where a research project relates to two or more priority areas, the expenditure on it is included under each relevant heading.

Comparable information in respect of the Department's centrally managed research programmes is not available.

Medical Research Council (MRC) expenditure on medical research since 2002-03 and its distribution is shown in the following tables.

Area	2002-03	£ million 2003-04
Genetics, Molecular Structure and Dynamics	83.4	78.8
Cell Biology, Development and Growth	72.2	72.8
Medical Physiology and Disease Processes	75.3	78.3
Immunology and Infection	62.3	75.8
Neurosciences and Mental Health	68.8	68.8
People and Population Studies: Health Services and Health of the Public	51.9	54.5
Total	413.9	428.9

Area	2004-05	2005-06	£ million 2006-07
Health Services and Public Health Research Board	58.2	56.6	89.8
Infections and Immunity Board	71.7	82.3	85.8
Molecular and Cellular Medicine Board	174.7	195.6	192.1
Neurosciences and Mental Health Board	76.1	108.1	108.7
Physiological Systems and Clinical Sciences Board	67.2	72.0	97.3
Total	447.8	514.6	573.7

The scientific areas reported against by the MRC were changed from 1 April 2004 to correspond to the five research boards in operation from that date.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what ratio of prescriptions for Part IX items of the Drug Tariff were endorsed with supply of an item other than that originally prescribed in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [233612]

Phil Hope: The information requested is not available.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs); what plans he has to extend the service provided by ISTCs; and if he will make a statement. [233695]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent sector has helped improve the health services for patients, helping speed up treatments and introduce innovation to the NHS.

Private sector companies and voluntary sector providers are providing national health service patients with access to high quality and faster treatment—as well as offering patients unprecedented choice about when and where they are treated.

Through the independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) programme more than 1.34 million elective procedures, renal dialysis sessions, diagnostic assessments and episodes of primary care for NHS patients have been delivered through contracts which include over 100 fixed and mobile facilities provided by the independent sector.

Surveys of patients provide an indication of the effectiveness of ISTCs. The patient satisfaction rate for Wave 1 is 96.2 per cent. and for Phase 2 is 99.3 per cent.

The Government have no plans to centrally procure contracts for additional ISTCs beyond those already announced. Independent sector provision will in the future be procured locally rather than centrally.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many independent sector treatment centres are planned for *(a)* England and *(b)* Northamptonshire; and where each will be located. [233736]

Mr. Bradshaw: In terms of existing independent sector treatment centres (ISTC) provision throughout England, there are currently 25 fixed site Wave 1 ISTCs, eight Phase 2 ISTC schemes, a mobile magnetic resonance imaging service, a mobile cataract service and six commuter walk-in centres. There are also two Phase 2 schemes in mobilisation (Greater Manchester national health service clinical assessment and treatment service, and Avon, Gloucestershire and Wiltshire.)

Wave 1 and Phase 2 of the ISTC programme are now almost concluded, with no further ISTC schemes being centrally planned.

Independent sector provision will in future be procured locally rather than centrally. The three remaining Phase 2 schemes (London North, Hertfordshire and Essex) will be taken forward by the national health service to complete the review and negotiations with providers. The Department and HM Treasury are expected to conclude decisions by the end of November 2008.

NHS: Drugs

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of exchange differences on the availability and dispensing of parallel import medicines. [231863]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has made no assessment of the effect of exchange differences on the availability of parallel imported medicines.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the decision by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in respect of anti-TNFs on clinical practice. [232565]

Dawn Primarolo: We have made no such assessment. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently undertaking an appraisal of the clinical and cost effectiveness of the sequential use of anti-TNF drugs for the treatment of rheumatoid arthritis. NICE has not yet issued final guidance.

NHS: Reorganisation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when his Department will carry out the consultation on the proposed new process for developing and reviewing indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework, as stated in his Department's NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care newsletter of September 2008. [231965]

Phil Hope: The consultation on the proposed new process for developing and reviewing indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework began on 30 October 2008.

NHS: Staff

Sandra Gidley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the financial effect on primary care trusts of the proposed change in value added tax rules which will apply when employing temporary staff from agencies. [232190]

Mr. Bradshaw: Estimates are being made of the financial effect for all national health service organisations. The preliminary cost estimate to the NHS is £30 million.

Obesity

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the prevalence of obesity was in each of the last five years; and what forecast he has made of trends in the rate in each of the next 10 years. [233334]

Dawn Primarolo: Information on the proportion of adults aged 16 and over and the proportion of children aged two to 15 in England that are obese is collected in the Health Survey for England.

This information can be found in Health Survey for England 2006: Latest Trends. Table 4 of the adults' trend tables shows prevalence of obesity among adults in every year from 1993 and Table 4 of the children's trend tables shows prevalence of obesity among children in each year since 1995. The Health Survey for England 2006 was published on 31 January 2008. This publication is available in the Library.

Information on trends in the rate of obesity in the next 10 years is contained in the report "Tackling Obesities: Future Choices—Modelling Future Trends in Obesity and their Impact on Health". A copy of this publication can be downloaded at:

http://www.foresight.gov.uk/OurWork/ActiveProjects/Obesity/Obesity.asp

This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to reduce the prevalence of obesity in the UK. [233335]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government are committed to reversing the rising trend in obesity in the population. In January 2008, we published our strategy Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: a Cross Government Strategy for England. This strategy has five key themes: children, healthy growth and weight; promoting healthier food choices; building physical activity into our lives; creating incentives for better health; and personalised advice and support for all.

We have started to make good progress in the implementation of our strategy. On 23 July we published a newsletter Healthy Weight, Healthy Lives: six months on. A copy is available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_086464

A copy of the strategy and newsletter has already been placed in the Library.

Pathology

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish Lord Carter's review of pathology. [233580]

Dawn Primarolo: The final report of the Independent Review of NHS Pathology Services in England, chaired by Lord Carter of Coles, is scheduled for publication in December 2008.

Pharmacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on the Pharmacy White Paper; and if he will make a statement. [233205]

Phil Hope: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 365W.

Smoking

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on television promotion of *(a)* smoking bans, *(b)* stop-smoking programmes and *(c)* other tobacco-related programmes in the last year. [232608]

Dawn Primarolo: For the period March 2007 to March 2008, the Department spent the following on television-based promotion of smoking related issues:

£1,830,500 was spent on awareness raising ahead of the implementation of smokefree legislation;

£4,540,775 was spent on stop smoking programmes, including promotion of the national health service stop smoking services; and

There was no television promotion for any other tobacco-related programmes.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost of administering the BCG vaccine to children in education but not resident in high tuberculosis incidence areas; and if he will make a statement. [233684]

Dawn Primarolo: No cost assessment of this nature has been conducted.

In 2005, following a review of surveillance data of tuberculosis (TB), the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation advised that a targeted BCG vaccination programme was the most effective vaccination strategy for the United Kingdom. The programme aims to achieve high vaccination coverage in particular among ethnic groups and in parts of the country where TB rates are highest.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of pensioner housing benefit recipients in each region who will be affected by the change in the limit on backdating claims for council tax benefit from 12 months to three months; and if he will make a statement; [230475]

(2) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of pensioner council tax benefit recipients in each region who will be affected by the change in the limit on backdating claims for council tax benefit from 12 months to three months; and if he will make a statement; [230476]

(3) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of working age council tax benefit recipients in each region who will be affected by the change in the time limit on backdating claims for council tax benefit from 12 months to six months; and if he will make a statement; [230477]

(4) what his Department's latest estimate is of the number of working age housing benefit recipients in each region who will be affected by the change in the time limit on backdating claims for housing benefit from 12 months to six months; and if he will make a statement. [230478]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Children: Maintenance

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed with the Child Support Agency is. [226162]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the Child Support Agency is a matter for the chief executive. He will write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Chief Executive.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what the average length of a repayment schedule agreed with the Child Support Agency is. [226162]

Robust information on the length of arrears repayment schedules is not held centrally and to obtain it would involve additional examination of all relevant cases. The information required to answer this question cannot therefore be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Child maintenance arrears should be paid immediately. Where this is not possible the Agency may enter an arrears agreement with the non-resident parent. The Agency aims to clear any child maintenance debt within two years and will therefore seek to negotiate the collection of arrears with this goal in mind.

No arrears agreement with the Agency should be regarded as settled unless it continues to ensure that child maintenance arrears are paid as quickly as possible having considered all the circumstances of the case. The Agency is therefore currently reviewing all of its cases, including those which may have an agreement in place to repay child maintenance debt over a longer period. This is to ensure that all agreements continue to be appropriate and that the interests of the child in respect of whom the arrears are due are fully taken into account.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Community Care: Finance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 478, on social care services, whether the £400 million referred to includes any part of the £1.1 billion of programme costs for Pathways to Work over the next five years. [228698]

Jonathan Shaw: The £400 million extra for paying the employment and support allowance rates does not include the £1.1 billion being made available for Pathways to Work. The two figures are entirely separate.

Council Tax Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for council tax benefit applications in each quarter of each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231031]

Kitty Ussher: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2365W, on council tax benefit, what estimate he has made of the number of adults in benefit units in Great Britain who are in receipt of 100 per cent. council tax benefit. [232958]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

Recipients of 100 per cent. council tax benefit in Great Britain

	Number
All benefit units	3,826,000
Of which:	
are single	3,077,000
are couples	748,000

Notes:
1. The figures are based on a one per cent sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.
3. Totals may not sum due to rounding
4. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System, annual 1 per cent. sample, taken in May 2004

Council Tax Benefits: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he estimates were *(a)* eligible for and *(b)* in receipt of council tax benefit in (i) Hemel Hempstead and (ii) Hertfordshire in each year since 1997. [232752]

Kitty Ussher: The latest estimates of the number of entitled non-recipients of means-tested benefit in Great Britain are published in the report 'Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07'. These include council tax benefit, income support, pension credit, housing benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based). Copies are available in the Library.

Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain.

Information on recipients of council tax benefit at constituency level is not available.

The available information for Hertfordshire is in the table.

Number of recipients of council tax benefit in Hertfordshire as at May each year

	Number
1997	66,170
1998	63,480
1999	60,320
2000	57,280
2001	54,370
2002	54,270
2003	55,710
2004	58,130
2005	60,360
2006	62,440
2007	62,990

Notes:

1. Data refers to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.

Source:

Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent caseload stock-count taken in May 1997 to May 2007

Incapacity Benefit: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of the working-age population in West Chelmsford constituency received incapacity benefit in *(a)* June 2001, *(b)* May 2005 and *(c)* the latest period for which figures are available. [233185]

Jonathan Shaw: I will let the hon. Member have such information as is available as soon as possible.

Substantive answer from Jonathan Shaw to Simon Burns:

The available information is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claimants as a percentage of the working age population in West Chelmsford parliamentary constituency

	Percentage
February 2008	3.7
May 2005	3.6
May 2001	3.3

Notes:

1. Percentages are shown to one decimal place.
2. Percentages have been calculated based on the ONS mid year population estimates at constituency level which are experimental data and therefore not part of the National Statistics. These experimental statistics are still under evaluation by ONS and should be interpreted with caution.
3. Data is quarterly, rather than monthly. The closest quarter to June 2001 ends at May 2001.
4. Figures include incapacity benefit credits only and severe disablement allowance cases.
5. Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance caseload figures for parliamentary constituencies are published on the internet at:

http://83.244.183.180/100pc/tabtool.html

The population estimates are published at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/statbase/Product.asp?vlnk=15095

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100 per cent WPLS

Income Support: Mortgages

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many claimants were in receipt of mortgage interest payment as part of income support in each Government Office Region in each of the last 10 years. [232700]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The available information is in the following table.

Number of income support claimants with mortgage interest payments, in Great Britain, by region

	As at February each year									
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Great Britain	270,500	252,400	243,600	231,000	218,700	115,600	105,400	98,900	91,900	83,300
North East	12,500	12,300	11,200	11,300	10,900	5,600	5,200	5,000	4,600	4,100
North West	42,100	38,900	37,800	35,000	33,000	17,500	16,200	15,500	14,400	12,700
Yorkshire and the Humber	23,400	21,900	22,000	20,500	18,700	11,100	10,400	9,800	8,700	8,100
East Midlands	17,900	17,500	16,000	15,000	14,000	7,300	6,500	6,400	6,100	6,000
West Midlands	26,400	24,700	24,800	23,800	23,100	12,500	12,100	11,000	10,600	9,500
East of England	23,200	21,000	20,200	18,700	17,300	9,400	8,600	8,200	7,300	6,900
London	36,600	33,800	31,700	29,900	27,900	14,900	13,100	12,400	11,600	10,400
South East	31,200	28,000	25,800	24,400	22,500	11,600	10,400	9,100	8,600	8,200
South West	21,200	19,900	18,900	17,400	15,800	7,900	6,900	6,400	6,100	5,500

Number of income support claimants with mortgage interest payments, in Great Britain, by region

	As at February each year									
	1999	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Wales	19,300	17,700	17,300	16,300	15,900	9,000	8,000	7,400	6,900	5,800
Scotland	16,800	16,700	18,000	18,600	19,400	8,500	8,100	7,800	7,100	6,200

Notes:

1. Case load figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Totals may not sum due to rounding.
3. Figures have been produced from a 5 per cent. sample and uprated in line with 100 per cent. WPLS totals.
4. Figures for February 2004 onwards are affected by claimants aged 60 or over who transferred to pension credit in October 2003.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to implement forthwith the change to eligibility for income support for mortgage interest payments planned for April 2009. [232701]

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what administrative steps he plans to take *(a)* in reducing the present period for claims for income support for mortgage interest to 13 weeks by April 2009 and *(b)* in widening access to income support for mortgage interest arrangements to joint income households. [232865]

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) if he will reduce the qualification period for income support for mortgage interest to 13 weeks with immediate effect; [232499]

(2) if he will amend the system of income support for mortgage interest to provide support to two-income households when one borrower loses their source of income. [232500]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* We share the concerns about the need for early introduction of the changes to help with mortgage costs, and therefore we have brought forward the date of introduction. We now plan to introduce the changes to Support for Mortgage Interest in January, including the reduction of the waiting period to 13 weeks. This is the earliest practicable date when we can do so.

Support for Mortgage Interest is available to those homeowners who qualify for one of the income-related benefits, income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance or income-related employment and support allowance. It is an integral component of those benefits. Couples are treated as a single unit in these benefits and if one member of a couple is in remunerative work of 16 hours or more, or has income which exceeds their entitlement, then they cannot receive the benefit. Only those couples who are not in remunerative work and who meet the other qualifying conditions of the benefit can receive Support for Mortgage Interest. This is intended to ensure that resources are directed to where they are most needed.

Where two or more people share a household and a mortgage, but are not a couple, they can individually receive Support for Mortgage Interest for their share of the mortgage interest payments, subject to their meeting the other qualifying conditions of the benefit.

Older Workers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many new jobs were filled by individuals aged 65 years or older in each year since 1997; [231827]

(2) how many new jobs were filled by workers aged over *(a)* 55, *(b)* 60, *(c)* 65 and *(d)* 70 years in each year since 1997. [231838]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on the number of new jobs that have been filled by individuals aged 65 years or older in each year since 1997, and your Parliamentary Question asking how many new jobs have been filled by workers aged over (a) 55 (b) 60 (c) 65 and (d) 70 years in each year since 1997. (231827 and 231838).

Statistics of new jobs created are not available explicitly from ONS surveys, however the Labour Force Survey (LFS) does enable comparisons of net changes in employment to be made from year to year. Your questions have therefore been answered using the estimated numbers of people employed, from the LFS. Estimates of jobs available from other ONS sources do not provide the detailed age breakdowns you have requested.

The Office for National Statistics compiles its most timely employment statistics from the LFS following International Labour Organisation definitions.

Table 1 attached provides estimates of employment in each year since 1997 for people aged (a) 55-59 (b) 60-64 (c) 65-69 and (d) 70 and over, resident in the UK, along with the net year on year changes for these age bands. Figures are for the April to June quarter in each year.

The estimates in the table are derived from the LFS microdata weighted to estimates published in 2007. They are not entirely consistent with figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up to date population estimates. As with any survey, results are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Numbers of people employed and year on year change in employment, by five year age band from 1997 to 2008—April to June quarter each year—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Aged 55-59 years	*Net change*	*Aged 60-64 years*	*Net change*	*Aged 65-69 years*	*Net change*	*Aged 70 and over*	*Net change*	*Total*	*Net change*
1997	1,787	—	1,025	—	276	—	163	—	3,251	—
1998	1,862	75	970	-55	301	25	147	-16	3,280	29

Table 1: Numbers of people employed and year on year change in employment, by five year age band from 1997 to 2008—April to June quarter each year—United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	Aged 55-59 years	Net change	Aged 60-64 years	Net change	Aged 65-69 years	Net change	Aged 70 and over	Net change	Total	Net change
1999	1,952	91	1,020	49	304	3	159	12	3,435	155
2000	2,048	96	1,054	34	291	-13	167	9	3,560	126
2001	2,167	119	1,078	24	284	-8	152	-15	3,680	119
2002	2,373	207	1,088	11	314	31	165	13	3,941	261
2003	2,557	184	1,184	95	347	33	171	6	4,259	318
2004	2,601	44	1,247	63	366	18	183	13	4,398	138
2005	2,663	62	1,288	41	388	22	192	9	4,531	134
2006	2,683	20	1,384	96	423	35	199	6	4,688	157
2007	2,581	-103	1,541	157	408	-14	221	23	4,751	62
2008[1]	*2,550	-31	*1,656	116	*462	54	**234	12	*4,902	151

[1] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ = CV ≤ 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Pension Credit

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how much his Department distributed in pension credit to pensioners over the age of *(a)* 65, *(b)* 75 and *(c)* 80 years in each of the last 10 years; [231842]

(2) how much his Department distributed in the form of pension credit in each year since 1997. [231843]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following table.

Table 1: Pension credit expenditure in cash terms

£ million

	All ages	Age 65 or over	Age 75 or over	Age 80 or over
2003-04	2,413	1,824	1,122	783
2004-05	5,971	4,590	2,829	1,978
2005-06	6,426	4,965	3,056	2,140
2006-07	6,869	5,325	3,272	2,292
2007-08	7,332	5,656	3,450	2,413

Table 2: Pension credit expenditure in 2008-09 prices

£ million

	All ages	Age 65 or over	Age 75 or over	Age 80 or over
2003-04	2,770	2,093	1,288	899
2004-05	6,670	5,127	3,160	2,209
2005-06	7,030	5,432	3,343	2,341
2006-07	7,305	5,663	3,470	2,437
2007-08	7,552	5,826	3,553	2,485

Notes:

1. Pension credit was introduced on 3 October 2003, so expenditure figures for 2003-04 are part year figures.

2. Expenditure has been converted from cash terms to 2008-09 prices using GDP Deflators which were published alongside the 2008 Budget report.

Source:

Budget 2008 Benefit Expenditure Tables and DWP Accounting Systems.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to work with voluntary organisations such as Age Concern and Help the Aged to promote take-up of pension credit. [232976]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) work at both a local and national level with Age Concern and Help the Aged to promote take-up of pension credit.

Age Concern and Help the Aged have been our strategic partners since 2003 as members of the Partnership against Poverty Forum. At a local level, they are important partners within the Joint Working Partnerships we have developed with all 203 primary-tier local authorities. These partnerships provide a single point of access to social care and benefit entitlement to some of the most vulnerable pensioners.

PDCS are also currently developing a joint pension credit take-up campaign with both voluntary organisations.

Pension Credit: Bolton

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Bolton North East constituency and *(b)* Bolton have received pension credit since its introduction. [232677]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is in the following table.

The number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Bolton, North East and Bolton, 2003-08

	Bolton, North-East Constituency		Bolton	
	Household Recipients	Individual Beneficiaries	Household Recipients	Individual Beneficiaries
November 2003	4,250	5,100	11,360	13,700
February 2004	4,530	5,470	12,200	14,810
February 2005	5,120	6,220	13,910	16,990
February 2006	5,150	6,280	14,140	17,330
February 2007	5,190	6,360	14,300	17,610

The number of household recipients and individual beneficiaries of pension credit in Bolton, North-East and Bolton, 2003-08

	Bolton, North-East Constituency		*Bolton*	
	Household Recipients	*Individual Beneficiaries*	*Household Recipients*	*Individual Beneficiaries*
February 2008	5,200	6,370	14,340	17,670

Notes:

1. This information is published at www.nomisweb.co.uk
2. Caseloads are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Household recipients are those people who claim pension credit either for themselves only or on behalf on a household.
4. Individual beneficiaries includes both claimants and their partners.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100 per cent. data

Social Security Benefits

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's latest estimate is of take-up rates for *(a)* carer's allowance, *(b)* pension credit, *(c)* housing benefit and *(d)* council tax benefit; [232208]

(2) how many pensioners his Department estimates are eligible for pension credit, broken down by constituency. [232209]

Ms Rosie Winterton *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The latest estimates of take-up of means-tested benefits in Great Britain, covering income support, pension credit, housing benefit, council tax benefit and jobseeker's allowance (income-based) are published in the report "Income Related Benefits Estimates of Take-Up in 2006-07". Take-up rates are not available for carer's allowance.

Estimates of eligibility are not available below the level of Great Britain.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his Department's policy is on the payment of backdated interest for late payment of deferred state pensions; and if he will make a statement. [231846]

Ms Rosie Winterton: We aim to make payments as quickly as possible and it is our policy that compensation in the form of interest is considered when any unreasonable delay, beyond that for normal processing of the claim, has occurred. Every case is considered on its own merits. The interest rate is calculated for any period of unnecessary delay using an interest rate supplied by the Bank of England.

Winter Fuel Payments: North Yorkshire

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the number of households in Vale of York constituency which will receive the *(a)* £250 and *(b)* £400 winter fuel payment in 2008-09; [233201]

(2) how much he expects to pay to pensioner householders in the Vale of York in winter fuel payments in 2008-09. [233202]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Figures for winter 2007-08 are not yet available.

In winter 2006-07 we made:

12,140 winter fuel payments to households in the Vale of York constituency with a member aged 60-79; and

3,720 winter fuel payments to households in the Vale of York constituency with a member aged 80 or over.

We expect in 2008-09 similar numbers to receive the £250 and £400 respectively.

Notes:

1. Figures rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

Expenditure in 2006-07 on winter fuel payments in the Vale of York was £3.7 million. Forecasts of benefit expenditure are not produced at parliamentary constituency level.

Notes:

1. Expenditure figures have been rounded to the nearest £100,000.
2. Parliamentary constituencies and local authorities are assigned by matching postcodes against the relevant ONS postcode directory.
3. Please note that a small number of these households receive amounts higher than the usual rate for their age group, where the household includes more than two individuals each entitled to payments at half of the usual household rate.

Source:

Information directorate 100 per cent. data.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) what recent steps the Government have taken to assist the growth of creative industries; [233677]

(2) what steps the Government plan to take to encourage the growth of creative industries. [233678]

Barbara Follett: In February the Government published "Creative Britain—New Talents for the New Economy". This document sets out 26 commitments intended to move the creative industries from the margins to the mainstream of the economy. The commitments, which we hope to implement over the next three years, span the life cycle of the UK's creative economy, setting out measures which will help children and young people to foster their creativity and turn their talent into jobs as well as helping creative businesses to prosper and then thrive. £70.5 million of Government money is committed to the strategy.

The Find Your Talent programme has been launched, with 10 pathfinders providing five hours of culture per week for children and young people. The Technology Strategy Board has already offered over £7 million to a range of companies from across the creative industries sector to inspire new collaborative research and development.

We want to encourage employers to create up to 5,000 apprenticeship places a year in the creative industries by 2013. We have also announced that world leaders from the creative and financial industries will convene in the UK next year for the Creativity and Business International Network (c&binet) to help ensure that our creative industries continue to grow and thrive.

Arts: Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has given Manchester International Arts in the last 24 months. [233275]

Barbara Follett: Information from Arts Council England is that Manchester International Arts received a total of £134,100 as a Regularly Funded Organisation, and £226,250 through the Grants for the Arts programme over the past two financial years (2006-07 and 2007-08).

Broadband

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of how many households do not have access to broadband in *(a)* North Wiltshire, *(b)* Wiltshire, *(c)* Swindon and *(d)* England. [231463]

Ian Pearson: I have been asked to reply.

The matter raised is the responsibility of the independent regulator, the Office of Communications (Ofcom), which is accountable to Parliament rather than Ministers. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

We are committed however to looking seriously at the issue of broadband availability and will consider this in more detail over the coming months, in particular through the Digital Britain Report (DBR). We launched the DBR on 17 October, with a programme of work leading to a final report in spring 2009. The DBR will bring forward proposals for both Government and industry, to support the development of the digital communications and broadcasting sectors, and has at its core an ambition to accelerate the rate of growth, and cement the UK's position as a world leader in the knowledge and learning economy. One strand of this work will look at options for maximising broadband participation and levels of service.

Churches Conservation Trust: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Churches Conservation Trust. [224849]

Andy Burnham: The Churches Conservation Trust have informed us that they currently employ one full time equivalent (FTE) press officer.

Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment. [224850]

Barbara Follett: The requested information has been provided by the Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment (CABE) who have informed us that they currently employ 5.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) press and communications officers.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* the Victoria and Albert Museum, *(b)* National Museums Liverpool, *(c)* the National Maritime Museum, *(d)* the Natural History Museum and *(e)* the National Portrait Gallery. [224861]

Barbara Follett: The following information has been supplied by the organisations requested:

The Victoria and Albert Museum

The Victoria and Albert Museum currently employs 5.5 full-time equivalent (FTE) staff who work directly in the press office or whose role would primarily consist of core communications expertise.

The National Museums Liverpool

The National Museums Liverpool currently employ seven FTE staff working on press, general communication and associated matters.

The National Maritime Museum

The National Maritime Museum currently employs one FTE press and public relations officer.

The Natural History Museum

The Natural History Museum currently employs five FTE press and communications staff, one of whom is funded commercially.

The National Portrait Gallery

The National Portrait Gallery currently employs 2.65 FTE press and media staff.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by his Department. [224869]

Barbara Follett: There are 10 press officers and six communications officers employed by the DCMS.

The six communications officers were previously designated as 'marketing officers' (and listed as such in the White Book).

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many civil servants working in his Department and its agencies have pensions with a cash equivalent transfer value of over £1 million. [229556]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not appropriate to disclose pension information other than for board members whose details are shown in the remuneration report in annual Resource Accounts. A copy of DCMS's resource accounts for the financial year 2007-08 can be found in the Library or accessed on the Department's website using the following link

<http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5398.aspx>

English Heritage

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people participated in English Heritage outreach projects in each year since 2000. [225292]

Barbara Follett: English Heritage engages under-represented groups through its sites and in the community through dedicated outreach projects, reaching over 890,000 people from priority groups in 2007-08. It also supports a wide range of other events and initiatives to attract new users, including "National Archaeology Week" through the Council for British Archaeology which attracts between 80,000 and 100,000 members of the public to hundreds of locally arranged events; and Heritage Open Days through the Civic Trust which attracts up to 1 million visitors to events all around the country.

	Number of outreach projects	*Number of people engaged through outreach projects*	*Under-represented groups visiting EH properties*	*Total*
2005-06	78	46,751	773,868	820,619
2006-07	85	49,495	797,078	846,573
2007-08	88	33,477	857,260	890,737

Note:

The figures for visitors to properties are calculated based on annual survey data. The outreach figures are actual participants.

Figures for earlier years are not available as outreach figures were not gathered centrally until 2004-05 and the survey of site visitors did not identify under-represented groups until 2005-06.

Football Licensing Authority: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Football Licensing Authority. [224860]

Andy Burnham: The Football Licensing Authority has informed us that it does not employ any press officers or core communications staff.

Government Art Collection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on acquiring new works for the Government Art Collection in each of the last 10 years. [233818]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him on 7 July 2008, Official Report, column 1209W by my right hon. Friend the Member for Barking (Margaret Hodge).

Heritage Lottery Fund: Employment Agencies

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much *(a)* the Heritage Lottery Fund and *(b)* English Heritage spent on recruitment consultants in each of the last five years; and which companies provided these services. [231371]

Barbara Follett: The Heritage Lottery Fund has informed us that it is unable to provide the requested information without incurring disproportionate costs.

English Heritage has provided the information in the following table for spend on recruitment consultants.

Financial year	*Cost of recruitment agencies (£)*
2003-04	128,526
2004-05	151,486
2005-06	170,202
2006-07	120,870
2007-08	177,360
Total	748,444

The recruitment companies used were: Accountancy Additions Ltd., Accountancy Divisions Ltd., Adecco UK Ltd., Alexander Hughes UK Ltd., Alexander Lloyd Ltd., Allen and York Ltd., Alpha Personnel, Andersen Leigh Associates PLC, Aptus Personnel Ltd., Arts and Business, Beaver Employment Ltd., Brook St. Bureau, Capita Resourcing Ltd., Castle Employment Agency Ltd., Charity People Ltd., Charterhouse Recruitment Ltd., Covent Garden Bureau, Dovetail Human Resource Services, English Country Gardeners, ESP Recruitment, Gallery Resources Ltd., Hamlin Knight, Hays Accountancy Personnel, Hays Montrose, Hewitson Walker, HR Personnel Partnership, Hudson Global Resources Ltd., Hudson York Farrell, Huxley Associates Ltd., Inspired Selection Ltd., Judd Farris Ltd., Katy Carter, Michael Page International, MGM International Ltd., Office Angels, Office Team, Ortus HR, Oryx Executive Search Ltd., Outsource UK Ltd., Principle Partnership (UK) Ltd., Public Finance Management Ltd., Quest Search and Selection Ltd., RBH Recruitment Ltd., Reed Employment Plc, Reed Personnel Services Plc, Richmond Associates UK Ltd., Ritz Recruitment Ltd., Robert Half Finance and Accounting, Robert Walters Ltd., Rowan Charles Ltd., Senitor Associates Ltd., Strong Recruitment, Talisman, Talisman Marketing Solutions Ltd., The Job Partnership, TPP Newman Ltd., Travail Employment Group, Vanley Burke, VMA Search and Selection Ltd., Witton Recruitment, WP Recruitment Ltd.

Historic Royal Palaces: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Historic Royal Palaces. [224859]

Andy Burnham: Historic Royal Palaces have informed us that they currently employ four full-time equivalent (FTE) in-house press officers.

Horserace Totalisator Board: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much the Tote spent on press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [225502]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tote have informed us that they do not employ any press and communications officers.

Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communication officers are employed by *(a)* the National Lottery Commission and *(b)* the Gambling Commission. [224781]

Barbara Follett: The information has been supplied by the organisations requested as follows:

The National Lottery Commission:

The National Lottery Commission currently employs three full time equivalent (FTE) staff within their communications team.

The Gambling Commission:

The Gambling Commission currently employs six FTE staff within their communications team.

Museums and Galleries

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people visited the national museums in the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [234033]

Barbara Follett: There were a record 40 million visits to national museums in 2007-08. This represents an increase of 72 per cent. since the year before free admission was introduced.

Powers of Entry

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary legislation sponsored by his Department has (i) amended and (ii) enhanced existing powers of entry since May 1997. [221954]

Barbara Follett: I refer the hon. Member to my earlier answer given to the right hon. and learned Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 148W.

Public Libraries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what support his Department provides to libraries to increase their popularity as places to read; what assistance is given to enable libraries to work with the private sector towards this goal; and if he will make a statement. [233282]

Barbara Follett: In 2003 DCMS published Framework for the Future, the Government's 10-year public library strategy for England. This provided a broad vision to enable libraries to modernise through promoting reading and learning; enabling access to digital skills and services; and encouraging community cohesion and civic values, as well as looking for the scope for capacity building. Framework for the Future has been underpinned by work funded through the Museums Libraries and Archives Council (MLA), including the training programme Leading Modern Public Libraries, and library service peer reviews.

In the context of Framework, on 9 October 2008 the Secretary of State announced that the DCMS would undertake a Library Service Modernisation Review to define the Government's vision for a modern, world-class public library service and set out some of the necessary steps to achieve this vision. This review, which is expected to report in the spring of 2009, aims to support local authorities in delivering modernised, responsive and appealing library services for their communities, and to improve performance and increase usage. The private sector—particularly publishers and booksellers—are playing an important part in this project, and library services are increasingly working with private sector partners to improve their services.

The BIG Lottery Fund £80 million Community Libraries Programme is an investment across England to improve community learning opportunities through libraries. Part of this is offering the types of opportunities that are essential to the promotion of reading activities. These include learning opportunities and activities to attract new library users such as reading groups, writing groups, language classes and family learning activities.

Libraries have played a central role in the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) funded National Year of Reading, for which DCMS provided valuable policy support. This has promoted a broad range of themed events and activities, and as part of a membership drive signing up over one million new library members since April 2008.

There are also a significant number of programmes funded by Departments, sponsored organisations and third sector partners which promote the increased use of public libraries. DCMS (through the MLA) and other Government Departments have provided funding for the Summer Reading Challenge, Book Ahead, Fulfilling their Potential, Vital Link and Families Love Libraries. In addition DCMS has given policy support to programmes funded directly by other Departments (namely DCSF) including Bookstart, Boys into Books and Booked Up.

Regeneration: Coastal Areas

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the Government's initiative to assist regeneration in seaside towns, how much has been allocated to each town since the inception of the initiative. [233564]

Barbara Follett: The grants allocated to local authorities in Wave One of the Government's Sea Change initiative to assist regeneration in seaside resorts are set out in the table:

Wave one large grants programme

£

Local Authority	*Seaside Town/Resort*	*Grant Awarded*
Blackpool Council	Blackpool	4,000,000
Kent County Council	Dover	3,850,000
Torbay Council	Torbay	2,247,532

Wave one large grants programme

Local Authority	*Seaside Town/Resort*	£ *Grant Awarded*
Wave One Open Application Programme		
Berwick-upon-Tweed	Berwick	1,000,000
Rother District Council	Bexhill-on-Sea	1,000,000
Arun District Council	Littlehampton	480,800
Devon County Council	Teignmouth	376,676
Bournemouth District Council	Boscombe	455,000
North Somerset Council	Weston-Super-Mare	951,447
Torridge District Council	Westward Ho!	100,000[1]
North Tyneside Council	North Tyneside	29,525[2]
Wyre Borough Council	Fleetwood	30,000[2]
Thanet District Council	Margate	30,000[2]
North Devon Council	Ilfracombe	30,000[2]
East Riding of Yorkshire Council	Withernsea	30,000[2]

[1] Development grant
[2] Feasibility grant

Regional Cultural Consortiums: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by regional cultural consortiums. [224846]

Barbara Follett: Throughout the Regional Cultural Consortiums, staff will occasionally work on communications at all levels, but there are no members of staff employed in this capacity on a full time basis. There is one communications officer employed in a part time role, and three other consortiums employ external consultants to deal with press and communications issues as needed.

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much each regional cultural consortium spent on employing press and communications officers in each of the last five years. [226248]

Barbara Follett: The figures in the table reflect how much each regional cultural consortium has spent on employing press and communications officers, including freelance and consultancy staff, in each of the last four years. There are no figures available for 2004-05.

£000

Regional cultural consortium	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
Culture Northwest	12,409	21,205	32,154	11,240
Culture South East	2,937	6,000	3,000	0
Culture East Midlands	16,700	0	14,300	3,500
Culture West Midlands	0	0	16,100	18,200
Living East	0	0	0	0
Yorkshire Culture	0	0	0	0
Culture South West	0	0	0	0
Culture North East	0	0	0	0

[1] Expenditure to date.

Royal Parks Agency: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Royal Parks Agency. [224845]

Barbara Follett: The Royal Parks inform us that they employ 1.25 full time equivalent press/communications officers.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230742]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport leads on one cross-Government Public Service Agreement—PSA 22 (Olympics and PE and School Sport). There is no requirement as such for PSAs to be rural proofed, rather the policies and programmes beneath them should be. All new policies, programmes and projects are subject to comprehensive but proportionate impact assessments, including rural-proofing, where appropriate.

Sports: Essex

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in the West Chelmsford constituency since 1997. [233138]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not provide any direct funding of grassroots sport; funding is channelled through Sport England. Sport England have advised that they do not hold specific information about grants benefiting amateur sports clubs and sport in schools in West Chelmsford and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Sport England can identify the specific projects they have supported in West Chelmsford and Chelmsford local authority. The total value of these awards is £6,273,264 (£5,278,144 lottery funding and £995,120 exchequer funding).

Of this total, some awards were made specifically to amateur sports clubs and sport in schools. The value of these awards is £199,913—£81,694 to amateur sports clubs and £118,219 to schools.

While only a limited number of awards have been identified as being made specifically to amateur sports clubs or schools sports projects, amateur sports clubs and school sport projects would have benefited significantly from other grants within the overall figures provided above.

Swimming: Finance

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many representations his Department has received from local authorities on the budgetary implications of free swimming schemes for *(a)* over 60 year olds and *(b)* under 16 year olds; and if he will place in the Library copies of such representations. [226261]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* We have received to date approximately 60 such representations. Subject to any issues of confidentiality, we will consider making responses available once our deliberations with authorities are complete.

Theatres Trust: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Theatres Trust. [224851]

Barbara Follett: The information requested has been supplied by The Theatres Trust. They inform us that no posts carry the job title "press" or "communications". However, approximately 0.3 of the full-time equivalent of one post is spent on marketing, press and communications.

Tote: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communications officers are employed by the Tote. [224862]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Tote have informed us that they do not employ any press and communications officers.

UK Film Council: Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many press and communication officers are employed by the UK Film Council. [224780]

Barbara Follett: The UK Film Council have informed us that they currently employ two full time equivalent (FTE) press officers and one FTE communications assistant.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: International Cooperation

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with the Canadian government on greenhouse gas emissions and climate change. [231765]

Joan Ruddock: The Department of Energy and Climate Change has only recently been set up and the Secretary for Energy and Climate Change has not yet had the chance to engage with the Canadian government on the issue of greenhouse gas emissions and climate change.

My hon. and learned Friend the Member for North Warwickshire (Mr. O'Brien) has recently met with the Albertan Energy and Environment Ministers.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the relative cost-effectiveness of alternative strategies for reducing greenhouse gas emissions; and if he will make a statement. [230351]

Joan Ruddock: The Stern review on the economics of climate change clearly demonstrated that the benefits of strong and early action to reduce greenhouse gas emissions far outweigh the economic costs of not acting. The Government's strategy is to take action as cost-effectively as possible, taking account of the need to secure emissions reductions within the UK, as well as to support action internationally. Impact assessments are published detailing the costs and benefits of individual instruments and policies to deliver emissions reductions.

In considering how we will meet our carbon budgets, which will be required under the Climate Change Bill, we will compare the cost-effectiveness of further action across all sectors of the UK economy. A report on how the Government will meet their budgets will be published as soon as is practicable once the budgets are set.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many people he estimates are eligible for Warm Front grants; and how many people have received all or part of a grant in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the South West, *(c)* England and *(d)* the UK in each year since 2003. [229369]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front grant provides a package of insulation and heating improvements up to a value of £2,700 (or £4,000 if oil central heating is recommended) throughout England. Devolved administrations have separate schemes.

Based on figures published in BERR's fuel poverty statistics (annexed to the UK Fuel Poverty Strategy annual progress report, 2008) the number of households eligible for assistance through the Warm Front scheme in 2006, the most recent year for which figures are available, was 3.3 million.

The following table illustrates the number of households assisted each year from 2003 in *(a)* Cornwall, *(b)* the south-west, and *(c)* England by the Warm Front scheme.

	Scheme year					
	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*[1]
(a) Cornwall	2,867	3,118	2,521	2,641	2,926	1,130
(b) South-west England	13,730	16,978	17,949	19,424	22,034	9,750
(c) England (all)	188,974	208,084	173,184	253,079	268,900	108,888

[1] To 30 September

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what consideration he has given to raising the maximum level of Warm Front grant. [230420]

Joan Ruddock: A decision on whether to increase the grant maximums has been delayed pending consideration of the National Audit Office (NAO) recommendations on various aspects of the Warm Front scheme. The recommendations will be contained in the NAO's Value for Money audit, due to be published in December. These recommendations will be considered alongside further work to assess the impact of an increase in grant maximums on the overall number of households assisted in this and future years.

Microgeneration

Colin Challen: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will set a binding target for microgeneration by 1 November 2008 as required by the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006. [225725]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The new Department of Energy and Climate Change has already signalled strong commitment to meeting the following three long-term challenges facing our country:

Ensuring that we have energy that is affordable, secure, and sustainable.

Bringing about the transition to a low-carbon Britain.

And achieving an international agreement on climate change.

We have already announced our commitment to achieve an 80 per cent. cut in carbon emissions by 2050. We have also tabled amendments to the Energy Bill to introduce feed-in tariffs for small scale low carbon electricity generation up to 3MW and financial support for renewable heat at all scales.

We want to enable people to move from being passive users to being active generators of energy. While the microgeneration definition in the 2006 Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act, particularly in respect of heat generation, was of a scale more appropriate to households, we also want to see more schools, hospitals, communities and businesses invest in projects that will generate low carbon electricity and heat for their own use. This will allow more citizens to engage actively in the fight against climate change and increase our energy security.

In the first half of 2009 we will therefore launch our renewable energy strategy, and will bring forward our more detailed proposals on feed-in tariffs for small scale low carbon electricity and incentives for renewable heat. In the light of these decisions, we will be in a position to set out in detail the expected contribution of on-site generation alongside other kinds of electricity and heat generation.

Therefore at this stage, rather than designating targets within the narrower terms of the Climate Change and Sustainable Energy Act 2006, we intend to bring forward broader proposals in the context of the Renewable Energy Strategy.

I have placed a written statement of our reasons in the House Library.

Wind Power

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions his Department has had with other Government Departments on the impact of wind turbine developments on the rural environment. [233464]

Joan Ruddock: DECC officials have regular conversations with officials dealing with these matters in other Government Departments, and as part of the renewable energy strategy consultation, we have made it clear that we will need to ensure coherence between our renewable energy and environmental goals.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Dietary Supplements: EU Law

Sarah Teather: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment the Better Regulation Executive has made of the effect on the food supplements industry of setting maximum permitted levels under the Food Supplements Directive; and if he will make a statement. [227890]

Ian Pearson: The Food Standards Agency leads negotiations for the United Kingdom on the setting of maximum and minimum permitted levels and is responsible for developing the associated impact assessment. The Agency continues to gather information for, and develop the impact assessment in consultation with industry. An assessment of the likely impact will be made when the specific levels being proposed by the European Commission are available. These will be set out in Commission proposals, currently expected in January 2009, on which the Agency will consult fully. The Better Regulation Executive continues to work with the Agency to help them ensure the UK negotiating position is developed in line with better regulation principles.

Electronic Equipment: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what progress has been made towards implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive; and if he will make a statement. [232789]

Ian Pearson: The UK laid the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations before Parliament on 12 December 2006 and they came fully into force on 1 July 2007. Amending Regulations were laid before Parliament on 11 December 2007 and came into force on 1 January 2008.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the cost to British companies of implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [232790]

Ian Pearson: The estimated costs of implementing the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive are set out in the final Regulatory Impact Assessment which was published when the WEEE Regulations were laid before Parliament on 12 December 2006.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what recent representations he has received on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [232841]

Ian Pearson: There have been no recent representations received on the implementation of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department has taken to raise public awareness of opportunities to recycle equipment which falls within the provisions of the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment Directive. [233055]

Ian Pearson: The Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Regulations place a number of obligations on producers and retailers of Electrical and Electronic Equipment (EEE) to provide information to consumers as to how best they can dispose of the WEEE to help protect the environment. From 1 July 2007, consumers have been receiving information from retailers, on how they can do this, when they buy a new item of electrical equipment.

A number of trade and re-use organisations have also been helping to raise awareness among their members. The Department has organised road shows, seminars, mail outs as well as press and publicity in national, regional and trading publications. Further awareness raising will be undertaken across the UK in the coming months.

Iraq

Dr. Fox: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many civil servants from his Department served in *(a)* Basra, *(b)* Baghdad and *(c)* other locations in Iraq in each month since January 2005. [226988]

Mr. McFadden: The Department does not keep a record of how many staff have served or where they are stationed. BERR staff in the reserve forces are granted special unpaid leave when they are mobilised. They are not obliged to inform the Department of where they are being stationed as this would be a matter for the MOD.

Non-profit Making Associations

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) how many social enterprises there are in the UK in each sector; [233112]

(2) how many social enterprises there are in *(a)* Yorkshire and Humberside, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* Leeds West constituency, broken down by sector. [233113]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent figures suggest there are at least 55,000 social enterprises in the UK. However, social enterprises are not defined by particular legal forms and as a result are not required to register with any one body. Information on the number of social enterprises in the UK in each sector or a particular area is therefore unavailable.

Radioactive Materials: Waste Disposal

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent to date from the public purse on the nuclear decommissioning and radioactive remediation programme; what proportion of this expenditure has been on *(a)* civilian nuclear sites, *(b)* military nuclear sites and *(c)* mixed civilian and military nuclear sites; and what his estimate is of the total cost of the programme expressed in 2008 prices. [229841]

Ian Pearson: Since its inception in April 2005, the NDA (Nuclear Decommissioning Authority) has spent a total of £7.8 billion, of which £4.6 billion has been applied to nuclear decommissioning and radioactive remediation, and which has therefore reduced the nuclear liability. In the same period the NDA's commercial income was £4.0 billion and commercial and administration costs £3.2 billion.

Decommissioning military nuclear sites is a matter for the Ministry of Defence.

Tobacco

David Taylor: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many meetings *(a)* the Secretary of State, *(b)* other Ministers and *(c)* officials in his Department had on the future of tobacco sales regulation with tobacco (i) retail businesses and (ii) manufacturers between September 2007 and August 2008. [228440]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* While there were no meetings with BERR Ministers during the period in question, we have identified 12 meetings between BERR officials and either tobacco manufacturers or representatives of small tobacco retailers, at five of which tobacco sales regulation was discussed. However there may have been other meetings with officials and to identify them all would incur disproportionate cost as this information is not held centrally. In addition, the Department has regular contact with retailers (some of which sell tobacco products), on a variety of business issues.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information her Department has gathered for the purposes of benchmarking on *(a)* the number of local authorities in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales and (iii) Northern

Ireland which built council houses in 2007 and *(b)* the number of houses completed in each authority. [232769]

Margaret Beckett: Statistics on local authority house building in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are the respective responsibility of Scottish Government, the Welsh Assembly Government and the Northern Ireland Executive.

Fire Services

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent consideration she has given to proposals to establish a regional fire control centre for the East of England; and if she will make a statement. [233937]

Mr. Khan: A regional fire control centre for the East of England has been built as part of the FiReControl project, which will deliver a fully integrated national network of nine Regional Control Centres (RCC). The RCCs will greatly increase the resilience of the fire and rescue service and in particular will enable it to respond more effectively to major national emergencies—for example terrorist attacks; or floods.

The benefits of the FiReControl project for the region are set out in "The FiReControl Business Case Part 1: the Regional Case for the East of England", which was published on 8 July 2008 copies of which have been placed in the House Library. This can also be found at on the Department's website at:

www.communities.gov.uk/fire/resilienceresponse/firecontrol/businesscase/

Home Information Packs: Finance

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what her Department has budgeted for supporting home information packs in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [233265]

Margaret Beckett *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: Programme resources allocated to support the implementation of home information packs over the current spending review period are : £1.0 million in 2008-09; £0.5 million in 2009-10; and £0.5 million in 2010-11.

Housing: Teachers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department plans to spend on *(a)* Homebuy and *(b)* Key Worker Living for school teachers in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [233122]

Margaret Beckett: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 951W.

Land Use: Quarrying

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether disused and reclaimed limestone quarries in spatial strategy growth areas would be considered a suitable site for new homes; and if she will make a statement. [233573]

Margaret Beckett: At the regional level, the regional spatial strategy should identify broad strategic locations for new housing developments so that the need and demand for housing can be addressed in a way that reflects sustainable development principles.

At the local level, it is the responsibility of local planning authorities preparing local development documents to set out a strategy for the planned location of new housing which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development.

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether disused limestone quarries are classified as brownfield sites. [233574]

Margaret Beckett: The definition of previously-developed land (often referred to as brownfield land) set out in Planning Policy Statement 3, Annex B, excludes land that has been developed for minerals extraction where provision for restoration has been made through development control procedures.

Local Authorities: Bank Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local authorities have funds deposited with Landsbanki; and how much is deposited in each case. [232568]

John Healey: The Local Government Association (LGA) reported on 17 October that 123 authorities have deposited £919.6 million in Icelandic banks and their UK licensed subsidiaries; and it has published a full list of 104 LGA member councils that have told the association that they have deposits in these banks. This is available on the LGA website at:

http://www.lga.gov.uk/lga/aio/1135431.

The LGA's analysis of the information that they collected from authorities is that £347.3 million of this total amount was deposited in Landsbanki. The authorities that the LGA have said have deposits in Landsbanki are as follows, but they have not disclosed the amounts held by each authority.

Aylesbury Vale district council
Barnet
Bassetlaw district council
Bolsover district council
Bolton
Braintree
Breckland
Bridgnorth
Bristol
Buckinghamshire
Burnley
Caerphilly county borough council

Cambridge
Ceredigion county council
Cheltenham
Chorley
Colchester
Cornwall county council
Daventry
Derwentside
Doncaster
Dorset
Dorset Police Authority
Dover
East Staffordshire
Exeter city council
Flintshire county council
Gloucestershire county council
Haringey
Havering
Hertfordshire county council
High Peak
Hillingdon
Ipswich borough council
Kent county council
Kent Police Authority
Kirklees
Lancashire county council
Lancashire Fire Authority
Lancaster
Lewes
Neath Port Talbot county borough council
Newham
Norfolk
North East Lincolnshire
North Lincolnshire
North Somerset
North Wiltshire district council
Northumberland county council
Nottingham city
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oxfordshire county council
Plymouth
Powys county council
Purbeck
Reigate and Banstead
Restormel
Rotherham
Rugby
Sevenoaks
Solihull
Somerset county council
South Ribble borough council
South Yorkshire Pensions Authority
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Authority
South Yorkshire Passenger Transport Executive
Stoke-on-Trent city council
Surrey county council
Surrey Heath
Tewkesbury
Thames Valley Police
Tonbridge and Malling
Uttlesford
Vale of White Horse
Wakefield
West Lindsey
West Oxfordshire
Westminster city council
Wokingham
Wychavon
Wyre Forest.

Local Government: Cheshire

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment she has made of progress in the formation of the Cheshire East unitary authority. [233941]

John Healey: I have recently completed a series of visits to all restructuring areas, including a visit to Cheshire East on 2 October. In addition, officials from my Department report to me following the regular monthly meetings that they conduct with the council chief executives and leading officers responsible for implementation of the unitary structures, including those of Cheshire East.

The information points to Cheshire East being on track to deliver an effective unitary council, including the savings envisaged in their original bid.

Local Government: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average payment per person to members of the local government pension scheme was in 2008. [232831]

John Healey: The most recent published information on the costs of the Local Government Pension Scheme was issued on 15 October 2008 and can be found on the CLG website at

http://www.local.communities.gov.uk/finance/stats/pensions.htm.

Details of the costs of the scheme for 2008-09 will be published towards the end of 2009.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many individuals belong to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new local government pension scheme. [232832]

John Healey: All the existing 1,782,000 members of the scheme on 31 March 2008 were transferred into the new scheme with effect from 1 April 2008.

Minister for the East of England

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what engagements have been undertaken by the Minister for the East of England in an official capacity since her appointment; and what the location of each was. [233934]

Mr. Khan: The Minister for the East of England has made many visits throughout the region and I would be happy to publish a list of all of her engagements since her appointment in July 2007.

Date	*Venue*	*Event Summary*
July 2007		
20 July 2007	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	Introductory Meeting with Key Stakeholders
September 2007		
3 September 2007	EEDA, Cambridgeshire	Visit to East of England Development Agency
10 September 2007	Ipswich, Suffolk	Visit to East of England Regional Assembly and Ipswich to meet Chief Executives and key stakeholders
17 September 2007	Norwich, Norfolk	Meeting with Norfolk County Council Chief Executive and key stakeholders
28 September 2007	Stevenage, Hertfordshire	Chair Regional Partnership Group
October 2007		
1 October 2007	Newmarket, Suffolk	Local Area Agreement Event
11 October 2007	House of Commons, London	Greater South East Reception
16 October 2007	House of Commons, London	Meeting with Chief Executive of the Thames Gateway Development Corporation
17 October 2007	House of Commons, London	Meeting with Learning Skills Council Regional Director
26 October 2007	Lowestoft, Suffolk	Business Liaison Forum - meet with Business Leaders and Bob Blizzard MP
6 November 2007	Cambridge	Attending Destination Growth Event
November 2007		
9 November 2007	Norfolk and Suffolk	Flood Visit - Following Tidal Surge visit to Yarmouth and Lowestoft with John Healey
12 November 2007	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	Meeting with Chief Executive of EEDA
12 November 2007	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	East of England Business Group (EEBG) Meeting
12 November 2007	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	Regional Cities East (RCE) Meeting
16 November 2007	Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk	Visit to Avian Flu Regional Operations Centre
21 November 2007	Caxton House, London	Meeting GO-East Regional Director, Norfolk and Suffolk Local Authority Chief Executives following Tidal Surge; Flood Recovery meeting
28 November 2007	Docklands, London	Thames Gateway Delivery Plan Launch
30 November 2007	Benedict Rooms, Peterborough, Cambridge	Rural Skills Conference
December 2007		
3 December 2007	Trinity Centre, Cambridgeshire	Regional Partnership Group
10 December 2007	Stevenage, Hertfordshire	Meeting with Local Authority Chief Executives and Growth Representatives to discuss growth agenda
20 December 2007	Stevenage, Hertfordshire	English Beef and Lamb Executive (EBLEX) Photocall to support sheep farmers in the East of England
January 2008		
16 January 2008	House of Commons, London	Meeting with John Healey with Mike Penning MP on Buncefield
17 January 2008	Watford Health Campus, Hertfordshire	Visit to Watford Health Campus
21 January 2008	Happisburgh, Norfolk	Visit to Happisburgh on the North Norfolk Coast with Normal Lamb MP to discuss Coastal Issues
23 January 2008	BERR Conference Centre, London	RDAs and Regional Ministers Meeting
February 2008		
20 February 2008	26 Whitehall, London	Meeting with NHS East of England
25 February 2008	Thurrock	Visiting South Essex Rape Crisis Centre
March 2008		
3 March 2008	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	Sub-National Review meeting with County Council Leaders
10 March 2008	Grafham Water, Peterborough	Launch of Regional Water Partnership
31 March 2008	Trinity Centre, Cambridgeshire	Regional Partnership Group (RPG) meeting

Date	*Venue*	*Event Summary*
April 2008		
2 April 2008	26 Whitehall, London	Northstowe Cross Government Liaison Group Meeting
3 April 2008	26 Whitehall, London	Meeting Stephen Castle and Charles Allen, Olympics Committee
21 April 2008	House of Commons, London	LOCOG event for East of England MPs
24 April 2008	BERR Conference Centre, London	Quarterly RDA Chairs and Ministers Meeting
28 April 2008	Chelmsford, Essex	Visit to see anti-social behaviour partnership working in Chelmsford
May 2008		
12 May 2008	Letchworth, Hertfordshire	Sustainable Development Round Table Meeting
12 May 2008	Letchworth, Hertfordshire	Launch of the Regional Spatial Strategy
19 May 2008	Moller Centre, Cambridgeshire	Regional Local Authority Leaders meeting
19 May 2008	Moller Centre, Cambridgeshire	Event with EEDA and Local Authority Leaders to discuss SNR and the region's ambition
23 May 2008	Peterborough	Launching the English for Speakers of Other Languages Strategy
June 2008		
6 June 2008	Stevenage Borough Council, Hertfordshire	Regional Partnership Group (RPG)
9 June 2008	Felixstowe, Suffolk Coastal	Visit to Suffolk to see coastal issues including climate change adaptation and mitigation
16 June 2008	Thurrock Council Offices	Meeting with LA Chief Executives and Skills Representatives
23 June 2008	Newmarket, Suffolk	Speaking at Care Services Improvement Partnership East of England event
30 June 2008	Peterborough	Visit to HMP Peterborough (Womens' prison)
July 2008		
3 July 2008	BERR Conference Centre, London	Quarterly RDA Chairs and Ministers Meeting
11 July 2008	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	National Day of Consultation for Draft Legislative Programme
17 July 2008	House of Commons, London	Reception for industry reps to encourage occupants for Orbis, promote Lowestoft and mark handover of keys to Suffolk county council
21 July 2008	Peterborough	Visit to Perkins Engines—to see the opening of the expansion of Perkins Learning Centre
22 July 2008	London	Meeting with Julie Spence, Chief Constable of Cambridgeshire Constabulary
August 2008		
28 August 2008	Moller Centre Cambridgeshire	Launch of Economic Report with HMT and EEDA
September 2008		
9 September 2008	London	Recording video clip for Cambs Constabulary honour-based violence hotline launch
15 September 2008	GO-East, Cambridgeshire	Meeting regional house builders to hear about their experiences in the current climate
16 September 2008	Newmarket, Suffolk	Regional Transport Summit
18 September 2008	Luton Hoo Hotel, Luton, Bedfordshire	Launching BLEDP Joint Economic Development Strategy
October 2008		
10 October 2008	Stevenage Leisure Centre, Hertfordshire	Chairing the Regional Partnership Group meeting
13 October 2008	Orbis Energy Centre, Lowestoft, Suffolk	Launch event for the East of England Coastal Forum
20 October 2008	BAA Stansted, Essex	East of England's 'Talent Debate'
21 October 2008	House of Commons, London	Meeting with Business Link East
27 October 2008	Newmarket Race Course, Suffolk	LAA Event
29 October 2008	DCMS Office, London	Meeting with EEDA Board

National House Building Council: Complaints

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many complaints she has received on the operation of the National House Building Council in the last 12 months. [233144]

Margaret Beckett: The Department has received 17 items of correspondence in the last year which have included some form of complaint about the National House Building Council (NHBC).

The Department has no power to intervene in disputes between customers and the NHBC. NHBC have an established process for dealing with complaints, which should be used in the first instance. Any outstanding complaints about NHBC's role as an approved inspector are dealt with by the Construction Industry Council or in relation to their insurance cover by the financial services ombudsman.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she plans to bring forward an amendment to the General Permitted Development Order in relation to micro wind turbines. [231616]

Margaret Beckett: The Government are considering this issue and will make a statement in due course.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Legislation

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House how many pages of *(a)* primary legislation and *(b)* delegated legislation were passed by the House in each (i) Session between 1983 and 1995 and (ii) calendar year between 1983 and the last year for which figures are available. [233697]

Chris Bryant: The information is set out in the following table, but is only readily available by calendar year.

The figures do not include Church of England Measures. The page size of bound volumes of primary legislation changed in 1988.

	Pages of primary legislation	*Pages of delegated legislation*
1983	1,420	6,439
1984	2,876	6,099
1985	3,233	6,518
1986	2,847	9,091
1987	1,538	6,300
1988	3,403	6,342
1989	2,489	6,702
1990	2,391	6,590
1991	2,254	7,670
1992	2,678	9,014
1993	2,645	7,996
1994	2,335	10,188
1995	3,001	9,734
1996	3,150	9,528
1997	2,061	8,613
1998	2,469	7,429
1999	2,063	10,754
2000	3,841	8,712
2001	1,594	10,760
2002	2,868	9,109
2003	4,030	9,378
2004	3,470	9,574
2005	2,868	12,928
2006	4,911	11,562

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House how many hours the House *(a)* sat, *(b)* considered primary legislation and *(c)* considered delegated legislation in each (i) Session between 1983-84 and 1995-96 and (ii) calendar year between 1983 and the last year for which figures are available. [233702]

Chris Bryant: The information requested is set out in the following table. The figures refer to time spent on the Floor of the House.

This information is collected by Session and could be provided for calendar years only at disproportionate cost.

	Number of hours the House sat		*Number of hours considering primary legislation on the Floor of the House*		*Number of hours considering delegated legislation on the Floor of the House*	
Session	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1983-84	1,914	33	615	7	195	35
1984-85	1,566	17	502	52	156	30
1985-86	1,534	30	495	14	106	1
1986-87	930	26	298	1	60	18
1987-88	1,978	40	685	10	156	35
1988-89	1,581	41	523	6	88	1
1989-90	1,468	28	434	58	104	29
1990-91	1,373	53	395	54	76	5
1991-92	695	54	218	28	48	17
1992-93	1,983	48	678	39	134	27
1993-94	1,258	16	375	30	105	0
1994-95	1,313	43	335	18	87	39
1995-96	1,278	29	356	26	77	38

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Burma: Politics and Government

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Burma; and if he will make a statement. [232447]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 505W to the hon. Member for the Ribble Valley (Mr. Evans).

Burma: Storms

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what mechanism exists for monitoring the international aid delivered to Burma following Cyclone Nargis to ensure that it is not misused or misappropriated; and if he will make a statement. [232116]

Mr. Michael Foster: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1163W to the hon. Member for Buckingham (John Bercow).

Democratic Republic of Congo: Human Rights

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and if he will make a statement. [234181]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 5 November 2008 to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks (Mr. Hague) (UIN number 233081).

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228774]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: It is not possible to disaggregate costs in respect of overnight accommodation without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ethiopia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make a statement on his Department's aid programme in Ethiopia. [232348]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2008 to the hon. Member for Croydon, South (Richard Ottaway) (UIN number 233032).

Stress

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether the 2004 stress audit carried out by his Department will be repeated with results of audits published to monitor progress; whether the 2007 analysis of barriers in his Department's recruitment programme was published; what information his Department has gathered on the effects of its policies and practices on recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228562]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) undertook a stress audit in 2004 and the results were published to all staff via the Department's intranet site. A further stress audit was carried out in April 2008 to monitor the progress of DFID's stress management strategy. The results of the second audit were published to all staff via the Department's intranet in September 2008. Overall, the results were positive, showing an improvement on the 2004 position.

A full equality impact assessment of DFID's recruitment procedures was completed in the summer of 2007, prior to the introduction of our new recruitment system which was launched in March 2008. This work is outlined in section 5.5 of the 2007-08 Annual Diversity report which is published on DFID's external website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk

An analysis of the impact of gender, ethnicity, age and disability on DFID's recruitment policies and practices is also published in section 3 of annex A to DFID's 2007-08 Annual report under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005. DFID is required to publish and implement a disability equality scheme. This is a plan setting out how we will carry out the disability equality duty, monitor and report on progress. In particular, this includes our arrangements for gathering information on the effect of our policies and practices on recruitment, development and retention of our disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

No routine information is gathered on the recruitment, development and retention of DFID staff with mental illnesses. However, DFID has been accredited with the Job Centre Plus' Disability Two Ticks Award for the recruitment of disabled staff (which includes those with a declared mental illness). Our human resources case management team also liaises closely with our employee health and wellbeing team to support staff with mental illness and to help ensure their ability to attend, and be effective, at work—for example by agreeing to "reasonable adjustments".

DFID's equality impact assessments and Annual Diversity reports are reviewed by the Human Resources Steering Committee, and the management board, to identify priorities for continued awareness raising and actions to fulfil our equalities duties.

DFID is responsible for 21 appointments to three non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs):

Commonwealth Scholarship Commission in the UK

Crown Agents' Holding and Realisation Board

Overseas Service Pensions Scheme Advisory Board

Only the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission is currently active. DFID is committed to the Government's agenda for improving diversity on the boards of public bodies. To this end, and to encourage applications for all appointments from women, people from minority ethnic backgrounds and disabled people, we advertise in a range of publications and ensure that each advertisement makes it clear that applications are welcome from all parts of the community.

Sudan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development which aid agencies have suspended their activities in northern Darfur since January 2008 owing to targeted violence. [232122]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: MSF-Spain suspended activities in North Darfur in August 2008, and began to resume them in September. German Agro Action suspended food distribution activities in North Darfur during September and October 2008. GOAL temporarily suspended its programmes on 29 October. All of these were due to the increased risk to staff security. Access to rural areas of North Darfur has been intermittent during 2008, and many agencies operate remote working arrangements with occasional supervisory visits by relocatable staff.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of people in northern Darfur who do not have access to humanitarian aid following the withdrawal of aid groups from the region; and if he will make a statement. [232123]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: As a result of the insecurity, in particular the campaign by the Government of Sudan against rebel groups in September, the UN reports that 43 per cent. of the 1.5 million conflict-affected population of North Darfur currently do not have access to humanitarian aid.

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department is taking to ensure that a higher percentage of aid pledged by donors is delivered in Sudan. [232162]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: In 2005 the international community pledged $4.5 billion for Sudan and over the period 2005 to 2007 actually delivered $5.3 billion. A further $4.8 billion has been pledged for the period 2008-12.

While the percentage of pledges delivered is excellent, the problem has been delivering on the commitment to shift funding from a humanitarian to a recovery and development focus. The Department has taken a leading role influencing existing funding mechanisms or supporting the establishment of new mechanisms which allow more donor money to be spent on recovery and development activities. These mechanisms include the Basic Services Fund and the Sudan Recovery Fund, which accept funds from multiple donors.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Birth Rate

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will publish the most recent figures available for numbers of *(a)* births and *(b)* abortions among those aged (i) 11 years and under, (ii) 12 years, (iii) 13 years, (iv) 14 years, (v) 15 years and (vi) 16 years old. [233625]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the most recent figures available are for (a) birth and (b) abortion among those aged (i) 11 years and under, (ii) 12 years, (iii) 13 years, (iv) 14 years, (v) 15 years and (vi) 16 years. (233625)

Numbers of conceptions leading to maternities and abortions are provided so that meaningful comparisons can be made between the number of maternities and abortions that occur by age of woman.

Available figures are estimates of the number of conceptions that resulted in a live birth, stillbirth or legal termination.

To preserve the confidentiality of individuals, figures for girls aged 11 years and under, 12 and 13 have not been provided separately. Numbers of conceptions leading to a maternity or an abortion for girls aged under 14, 14, 15 and 16 in England and Wales for 2006 (the most recent year for which figures are available), are shown in the table below.

Number of conceptions to girls aged under 14, 14, 15 and 16 that lead to a maternity or an abortion, 2006, England and Wales

Age	*Conceptions leading to a maternity*	*Conceptions leading to an abortion*	*Total conceptions*
Under 14	109	186	295
14	611	1,153	1,764
15	2,428	3,339	5,767
16	6,721	6,386	13,107

Dorneywood

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 174W, on Dorneywood, on what dates the *(a)* Commons Chief Whip and *(b)* Leader of the House of Lords made use of Dorneywood for official engagements. [232940]

Kevin Brennan: The Leader of the House of Lords is chairman of the Trustees of the Dorneywood Trust and as such makes regular visits to oversee the running of the property as well as having official meetings. The Leader of the House of Lords and the House of Commons Chief Whip used Dorneywood for official engagements in September and October 2007, and in January, July and September 2008.

Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK nationals, *(b)* UK-born people, *(c)* foreign nationals, *(d)* non-UK EU nationals, *(e)* EU A8 nationals and *(f)* non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what the employment rate was in each group. [233095]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) foreign nationals, (d) non-UK EU nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age were in employment in the UK in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; and what the employment rate was in each group. (233095)

The estimates are shown in Table 1 and come from the Labour Force Survey. Employment estimates for the most recent four calendar quarters are provided for (a) UK nationals, (b) UK born people, (c) non-UK nationals, (d) EU 24 nationals, (e) EU A8 nationals and (f) non-EU nationals of working age. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

For the purposes of this answer, nationality is defined as that reported by respondents at the time of the survey.

The estimates provided are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Table 1: Working age[1] employment levels and rates[2]

Thousands and percentages, not seasonally adjusted

	Nationality										*Country of Birth*	
	UK		*Non-UK[3]*		*EU24+4*		*EUA8[5]*		*Non-EU[3]*		*UK Born[6]*	
	Level	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*	*Level*	*Rate*
July to September 2007	26,023	75.4	2,113	68.6	966	78.5	430	83.6	1,147	62.1	24,694	75.8
October to December 2007	26,050	75.6	2,173	68.3	1,006	79.2	469	84.0	1,167	61.1	24,718	76.0
January to March 2008	25,870	76.1	2,254	69.2	1,063	79.1	600	83.1	1,191	62.3	24,547	75.5
April to June 2008[7]	*25,882	75.1	*2,266	68.9	1,061	79.4	**498	84.5	*1,204	61.7	*24,532	75.4

[1] Defined as females aged 16 to 59 and males aged 16 to 64.

[2] The figures presented are weighted to the population estimates published in 2007.

[3] The groups non-UK and non-EU do not include those who did not state their country of birth.

[4] The EU24 group includes: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Luxembourg, Portugal, Republic of Ireland, Spain (including the Canary Islands), Sweden, Romania, Bulgaria and the EUA8 countries.

[5] The EUA8 countries are: Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Slovak Republic, Slovenia.

[6] The estimates for UK born levels and rates are provided on the basis of a respondents country of birth.

[7] Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ = CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ = CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ = CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* people and *(b)* people of working age in employment in the UK were (i) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other EU member states and (iii) citizens of non-EU member states in each quarter since 1st January 1995; and what the (A) percentage change in each category was for each such quarter compared with the previous quarter and (B) employment rate for UK citizens was in each such quarter. [233570]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on how many (a) people and (b) people of working age in employment in the UK were (a) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other KU member states and (iii) citizens of non-EU member states in each quarter since 1st January 1995; and what the (A) percentage change in each category was for each quarter compared with the previous quarter and (B) employment rate for UK citizens was in each such quarter (233570).

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in employment in *(a)* each region and *(b)* each local authority area were (i) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other EU member states and (iii) citizens of non-EU member states in (A) each year since 1997 and (B) each of the first four quarters for which figures are available. [233571]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question how many people in employment in (a) each region and (b) each local authority were (i) UK citizens, (ii) citizens of other EU member states and (iii) citizens of non-EU member states in (A) each year since 1997 and (B) each of the last four quarters for which figures are available. (233571)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be compiled at disproportionate cost.

Lobbying: EU Action

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the EU voluntary register of lobbyists; and whether he has considered the merits of establishing registers of those lobbying Government departments. [232232]

Kevin Brennan: The Government's position on the European Commission's voluntary register and code of conduct for interest representatives (lobbyists), is as set out in its response to the Commission's Green Paper on "The European Transparency Initiative", and in the Minister for Europe's letter of 14 September 2006 to the chairman of the European Scrutiny Committee. Copies of both documents have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Contacts between Government Departments and lobbyists are governed by the requirements of the "Ministerial Code", "Civil Service Code", "Civil Service Management Code", "Code of Conduct for Special Advisers", and "Guidance for Civil Servants on Contacts with Lobbyists" as appropriate. The Government look forward to receiving the Public Administration Select Committee's report on lobbying in due course.

Suicide

Norman Lamb: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people in each five year age cohort committed suicide in each of the last 20 years; what the suicide rate for each cohort was in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [233812]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many people in each five year age cohort committed suicide in each of the last 20 years and what the suicide rate for each cohort was in each of those years. (233812)

The tables attached provide the number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death for persons aged 15 and over by five year age group (table 1), and the suicide rate per 100,000 population for each five year age group (table 2), from 1988 to 2007 (the latest year available).

Table 1: Number of deaths where suicide was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, by five-year age group, 1988 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Deaths (persons)

	Age group														
	15-19	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-69*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*80-84*	*85+*
1988	234	535	486	509	546	547	409	422	416	384	394	340	334	232	125
1989	212	505	517	481	467	475	408	391	389	317	333	236	273	183	115
1990	193	552	599	473	509	550	460	387	343	321	340	256	243	175	122
1991	200	510	573	556	526	564	508	393	333	291	230	220	218	177	118
1992	164	529	585	532	507	537	535	385	340	316	280	280	197	163	108
1993	149	531	558	501	473	508	508	371	336	253	273	216	194	163	131
1994	141	484	594	593	456	444	421	379	289	273	247	242	181	178	146
1995	145	453	593	576	512	554	447	389	312	255	217	202	179	157	120
1996	169	390	552	633	477	480	477	343	297	210	199	227	169	155	120
1997	170	420	542	569	506	436	482	375	287	229	194	195	160	126	123
1998	194	457	632	719	554	494	484	435	314	240	232	162	184	117	114
1999	174	376	564	641	607	508	463	437	319	255	223	206	202	124	134
2000	169	386	537	587	613	478	481	430	339	219	205	201	175	112	137
2001	180	326	449	582	569	478	463	454	354	240	185	191	178	113	129
2002	152	323	459	550	594	510	444	408	352	211	200	164	136	118	130
2003	142	350	397	557	590	551	445	402	360	238	169	178	175	127	115
2004	160	316	394	502	596	555	461	428	374	234	226	170	165	150	140
2005	145	300	342	488	576	555	510	420	376	257	186	152	122	138	135
2006	121	278	334	414	544	522	481	412	414	278	192	148	138	118	110
2007	128	267	324	433	522	524	435	382	351	275	179	127	131	127	101

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1988 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2007.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Table 2: Age specific mortality rate where suicide was the underlying cause of death, England and Wales, by five-year age group, 1988 to 2007[1, 2, 3, 4]

Rate (per 100,000)

	Age group														
	15-19	*20-24*	*25-29*	*30-34*	*35-39*	*40-44*	*45-49*	*50-54*	*55-59*	*60-64*	*65-89*	*70-74*	*75-79*	*80-84*	*85+*
1988	6	13	12	15	16	15	14	16	16	15	15	17	20	22	18
1989	6	12	13	14	14	13	14	14	15	12	13	13	16	17	16
1990	6	14	15	13	15	15	15	14	13	12	13	13	14	16	16
1991	6	13	14	15	16	15	16	14	13	11	11	11	13	16	15
1992	5	14	14	14	15	15	16	14	13	12	12	13	12	14	13
1993	5	14	14	13	14	15	14	13	13	10	11	10	13	14	15
1994	5	14	15	15	13	13	12	13	11	11	10	11	12	15	17
1995	5	13	15	14	14	17	12	13	12	10	9	9	12	13	13
1996	6	12	14	15	13	14	13	11	11	9	8	11	10	13	13
1997	5	13	14	14	13	13	14	11	11	9	8	9	9	11	13
1998	6	15	17	17	14	14	14	13	12	10	10	8	10	11	12
1999	5	12	15	16	15	15	14	12	11	10	10	10	11	12	14
2000	5	13	15	14	15	13	15	12	12	9	9	10	10	10	14
2001	6	10	13	14	14	13	14	13	12	9	8	9	10	9	13
2002	5	10	14	14	14	13	13	12	11	8	9	8	8	9	13
2003	4	11	12	14	14	14	13	12	11	9	7	9	10	10	12
2004	5	9	12	13	14	14	13	13	11	9	10	8	10	11	14
2005	4	9	10	13	14	14	14	13	11	9	8	7	7	10	13
2006	3	8	10	11	13	13	13	13	12	10	8	7	8	9	10
2007	4	7	9	12	13	13	12	12	11	9	8	6	7	10	9

[1] Suicide was defined using the International Classification of Diseases, Ninth Revision (ICD-9) codes E950-E959 and E980-E989, excluding E988.8 for the years 1988 to 2000, and the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) codes X60-X84 and Y10-Y34, excluding Y33.9 (where the Coroner's verdict was pending) for the years 2001 to 2007.

[2] Figures include deaths of non-residents.

[3] Suicide and undetermined intent deaths have not been included for children under the age of 15 years.

[4] Figures are for deaths registered in each calendar year.

Super Output Areas

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a table listing the local government ward and the parliamentary constituency that each super output area *(a)* lower and *(b)* middle layer falls within. [232867]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking if a table could be placed in the Library listing the local government ward and the parliamentary constituency that each super output area (a) lower layer and (b) middle layer, falls within. (232867)

The information requested has been placed in the Library.

Wilf Stevenson

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the *(a)* job title and *(b)* job specification is of Mr. Wilf Stevenson in Downing Street. [233502]

Kevin Brennan: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer the Prime Minister gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 23 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 554W.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Art Works: Royalties

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on EU Directive 2001/84/EC. [233932]

Mr. Lammy: There have been no recent discussions of this EU Decision, which allowed the Republic of Cyprus to participate in the EU education, training and youth programmes in operation at that time, prior to its accession to the EU in 2004.

The EU Programmes referred to in the 2001 Decision were themselves replaced after 2006 by a Decision adopting the current EU Programmes for Lifelong Learning and Youth that run from 2007-13.

EU Ministers last discussed the current range of Lifelong Learning and Youth programmes when they were adopted in 2006.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data have been lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231440]

Mr. Simon: The information requested is as follows.

(a) Our records for the last 12 months show that the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has lost three Blackberry devices.

(b) The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08.

Intellectual Property: EU Law

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the Government's policy is on the proposed harmonising of the term of protection of copyright and certain related rights pursuant to Council Directive 93/98/EEC of 29 October 1993; whether such harmonisation and application of the resale right for the benefit of those entitled under the artist after their death is sought by the UK Government; and what assessment has been made of the preparedness of the UK's legal procedures to accommodate the application of the resale right for the benefit of those entitled under the artist after their death. [233931]

Mr. Lammy: The directive 93/98/EEC of 29 October 1993 harmonised copyright term throughout the EU. The UK has fully implemented this directive.

The Government will decide whether or not to seek to extend the derogation to artist's resale right for the work of deceased artists once the analysis of the responses to the recent consultation on the issue has been completed. The Government will then need to decide whether or not any amendments will need to be made to UK law.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228554]

Mr. Simon: Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies listed in the associated Regulations are required to publish and implement Disability Equality Schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor, and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effect of their policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The Department makes reasonable adjustments for people with mental health related disabilities and has an occupational health service that advises managers on the steps they can take to help people with mental health related illnesses return to and stay in work. A confidential welfare service is also available for staff who may wish to discuss any health related issues. The Department uses the Guaranteed Interview Scheme when recruiting externally and for internal job filling.

In line with the Disability Equality Duty, a report is published every three years to show: progress towards disability equality in my policy sector; and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public authorities within my policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on the recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with mental health conditions, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report must be published by December 2008.

The public sector bodies sponsored by my Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

Students: Electoral Register

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist universities in their efforts to encourage students to register to vote. [233724]

Mr. Lammy: The Department strongly supports the promotion of active citizenship among students in higher education, for example through increased opportunities for volunteering and other forms of community engagement.

The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is funding a project involving 10 higher education institutions, designed to incorporate modern citizenship modules into programmes of study in a variety of disciplines. Led by the universities of Southampton, Keele and Liverpool John Moores, the project has developed innovative learning materials for one to two-week modules in 11 areas of citizenship.

Students: Finance

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage universities to use all of their available budgets for bursaries and scholarships to students needing financial support. [233431]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions are not allowed to charge variable fees to undergraduates unless they have an access agreement approved by the Director of Fair Access, which covers the payment of bursaries. Once that access agreement has been approved, the Director monitors each institution's performance against the obligations in its access agreement, and has powers to impose penalties if there is a breach.

In 2006-07, the first year of the new fee and student support arrangements, around 25 per cent. of the additional income generated by variable fees has been recycled into bursary payments to students or into outreach work included as part of the access agreement. The Director concluded that all institutions had complied with their obligations. His report identified, however, that there was a minority of students who did not apply for a bursary and whose eligibility would not have been automatically apparent from information supplied by the Student Loans Company. We are working with institutions, the Director of Fair Access and the Student Loans Company to address this issue.

The Director of fair Access is currently examining institutions' payment of bursaries in 2007-08.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that all higher education students are aware of the bursaries which exist to provide financial support. [233432]

Mr. Lammy: Higher education institutions provide information about the bursaries and scholarships they offer. The Office of Fair Access regulates their activities in this area and has provided additional guidance for institutions based on the findings of its Access Agreement Monitoring Report for 2006-07. The Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills continues to raise awareness of all elements of the higher education student finance package, including bursaries, via literature, the internet and campaign material. Information for prospective students on bursaries is also available via the Universities and Colleges Admissions System website.

JUSTICE

Contact Orders: Grandparents

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he has given to bringing forward proposals to remove the requirement in the Children Act 1989 for grandparents and other extended kin to seek leave to apply for contact in family court proceedings; and if he will make a statement. [232778]

Beverley Hughes: I have been asked to reply.

The Government have no plans to remove the requirement in the Children Act 1989 for grandparents and other extended kin to seek leave of the court to apply for contact in family court proceedings.

Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when his Department's guidance relating to the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008 will be published. [233939]

Mr. Straw: The provisions of the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act are being brought into force in stages. Of the 146 substantive sections, 64 (44 per cent.) are wholly, or partly, in force. The Ministry of Justice has issued two circulars providing guidance on a number of the provisions of the Act which have been commenced, these are available at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/criminal-justice-bill.htm

Prison Service instructions have also been issued on specific provisions, where appropriate. Further guidance will be issued, as necessary, as further provisions are commenced over the coming months.

Departmental Databases

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what additional safeguards have been put in place to ensure data security in the *(a)* Libra, *(b)* Prison

Nomis, *(c)* ViSOR, *(d)* OASys, *(e)* Connectivity, *(f)* E-Asset and *(g)* Secure E-Mail IT systems following recent data losses. [228867]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice, along with all Government Departments, takes its responsibilities for protecting the confidentiality of the information we handle very seriously.

The Data Handling Review—Final Report, published by the Cabinet Office in June 2008, summarises the work conducted in Departments to improve data handling following the data losses that occurred in late 2007. The report also sets mandatory minimum standards for Departments to follow, for example introducing new rules on the use of protective measures, such as encryption of removable media.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232735]

Maria Eagle: Government accounting rules require certain contingent liabilities to be reported to Parliament at the earliest opportunity, either by means of a Parliamentary Minute or via Supply Estimates. The dates on which the Department, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies first reported such contingent liabilities are recorded in the annual resource accounts and in Supply Estimates for as long as the liabilities continue to exist. The following specific liabilities have been reported in the last five years:

Indemnity to members of the 42 local area probation boards (Minute 6 June 2005);

Central Council of Magistrates' Courts Committees indemnity (Minute 27 June 2006);

Indemnity for chairman and members of the Mubarek inquiry (Minute 10 March 2006);

Prison Service indemnity for British Airports Authority (Home Office 2006-07 resource accounts).

In addition, the annual accounts of the Department and its non departmental public bodies report contingent liabilities in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 12 Provisions, Contingent Liabilities and Contingent Assets. These liabilities do not require specific parliamentary approval.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229146]

Maria Eagle: Funding for the Ministry of Justice non-departmental public bodies has been agreed for 2008-09 only. Funding for 2009-10 and 2010-11 has not been agreed at this time and will be discussed at a later stage.

The details for each body are in the following table:

Ministry of Justice Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Sponsored body	*2008-09 (£ million)*
Legal Services Commission (Administration Costs)	115
Legal Services Commission (Fund)	2,025
Criminal Cases Review Commission	7
Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority	204
Judicial Appointments Commission	7
Parole Board	8
Youth Justice Board (England and Wales)	423
Information Commissioner's Office	6
Total	2,795

Notes:
1. Costs are rounded to the nearest £ million and include cash and non cash totals.
2. Bodies included are those with Executive NDPB status.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many drug rehabilitation requirements have included an abstinence requirement in each of the last five years; [232885]

(2) what proportion of those in receipt of *(a)* a drug treatment and testing order and *(b)* a drug rehabilitation requirement tested positive for opiate use 12 months after receipt of their order. [232888]

Mr. Hanson: The drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR), successor to the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (DTTO), does not impose a requirement of drug abstinence. Drug misuse is a chronic relapsing condition which can take many years to address successfully. The goal of the DRR is to move offenders through treatment toward abstinence and to manage episodes of relapse in a way which reduces harm to the individual and the community.

Information on the proportion of those in receipt of DTTOs/DRRs who tested positive for opiate use 12 months after receipt of their order is not collated centrally. Such information can only be obtained by undertaking a trawl of individual records which would be at a disproportionate cost.

Drugs: Smuggling

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people were *(a)* prosecuted and *(b)* convicted for offences related to the unlawful import or export of illicit drugs in each of the last 10 years. [232884]

Maria Eagle: Data showing the number of people proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts of importation and exportation of illicit drugs from 1997 to 2006 in England and Wales is contained in the table.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for the unlawful importation and exportation of drugs[1]*, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006*[2, 3, 4]

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Proceeded against	1,624	1,425	1,356	1,252	1,777	1,657	1,108	964	1,084	904
Found guilty	1,307	1,265	1,197	1,206	1,683	1,621	1,079	1,013	1,062	871

[1] Includes selected offences under SS 50 and 68 of the Customs and Excise Management Act 1979 and under section 19(a) and 19(b) of the Criminal Justice (internal Co-Operation) Act 1990.

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that-the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] The number of defendants found guilty in a particular year may exceed those proceeded against, as it may be the case that the proceedings in the magistrates court took place in the preceding year and they were found guilty at the Crown Court in the following year, or the defendants was found guilty for a different offence to the original offence proceeded against.

Euthanasia

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the Government's policy is on assisted suicide for those who are terminally ill; and if he will make a statement. [232788]

Mr. Straw: Assisting another person to commit or attempt to commit suicide is an offence in this country. Whether terminally ill people should have the right to seek medical assistance to die is a controversial issue, which deeply divides public opinion. The Government believe that any change to the law in this area is an issue of individual conscience and hence a matter for Parliament to decide rather than Government policy. It has been debated in Parliament on a number of occasions but none of the private Members' Bills has progressed further than Second Reading.

Family Courts

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to make the operation of family courts more open and transparent. [232618]

Bridget Prentice: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1031W, to the hon. Member for South Derbyshire (Mr. Todd) and my answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1506W, to the hon. Member for North-West Norfolk (Mr. Bellingham).

Freedom of Information

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what advice his Department has issued to other Government departments on the applicability of the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to messages sent by means of an instant message system; and if he will make a statement. [232475]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice has not issued any advice to other Government Departments on instant message systems and its applicability to the Freedom of Information Act. If information is held by a public authority it will be subject to the provisions under the Act in the usual way.

HMP Whitemoor: Islam

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many prisoners there are at HMP Whitemoor; and how many list their religion as Muslim; [232476]

(2) what facilities are provided to facilitate Muslim prisoners at HMP Whitemoor in practising their religion; [232480]

(3) what the arrangements for meeting the *(a)* cultural and *(b)* dietary requirements of Muslim prisoners at HMP Whitemoor are; [232481]

(4) what arrangements are made for the accommodation of Muslim prisoners at HMP Whitemoor. [232522]

Mr. Malik: On 4 November the number of prisoners at Whitemoor was 436. 157 declare themselves as Muslim.

At Whitemoor all prisoners are placed in a single cellular accommodation. The location within the prison of an individual prisoner will depend on an individual risk assessment.

The Prison Service Standard and Prison Service Order on Religion provide details of the practice of religion in prisons. As part of the multi-faith chaplaincy team at Whitemoor, a full-time Muslim Chaplain is employed to meet the religious needs of Muslim prisoners. Friday prayers are provided weekly led by the Muslim Chaplain. In addition the Muslim Chaplain provides religious instruction classes. Arrangements are also made by Whitemoor for prisoners to be able to observe the religious festivals appropriate to their particular religion.

The facilities list allows prisoners to wear specific cultural clothing and to have specific cultural items in possession should they wish to do so. In developing menus account is taken of the medical and cultural needs of all prisoners. In the case of Muslim prisoners a halal menu option is provided. Prisoners are also permitted to cook for themselves on certain residential areas of the prison.

Human Rights Insight Project

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost to date of the human rights Insight project has been. [233938]

Mr. Wills: The Human Rights Insight Project, carried out from December 2004 to July 2006, was an extensive piece of original qualitative and quantitative research aimed at assessing awareness of and attitudes towards human rights, the Human Rights Act and its underlying principles among both the general public and front-line staff in specified public services. The findings of the research have been important in informing policy development in this area and using human rights principles to improve the delivery of public services. The cost was £200,000 over the period 2004-06.

Judicial Pension Scheme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the average payment per person to members of the Judicial Pension Scheme was in 2008; [232829]

(2) how many individuals belong to the Judicial Pension Scheme. [232830]

Bridget Prentice: The average annual pension paid to members of the Judicial Pension Scheme (including dependants) for 2006-07 was approximately £36,000.

Data on the number of active members in the Judicial Pension Scheme are available in the published resource accounts. As at 31 March 2007 there were 2,101 active members. Copies of the accounts are held in the Libraries of the House.

Land Registry: Documents

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many pages of original documentation the Land Registry plans to destroy in November 2009; what criteria are being used to decide which documents to dispose of; and if he will make a statement. [230431]

Mr. Wills: The Land Registration Rules 2003 distinguish between documents kept by the registrar on 13 October 2003 (when the 2002 Act came into force) on which an entry in the register of title is or was founded, and documents that accompany an application made under the Land Registration Act 2002 which the registrar has decided to retain.

In the case of documents within (a), the 2003 rules provided for a five-year period, which ended on 12 October 2008, during which certain persons (such as the current registered owners) were entitled to request the return of a document. Subject to any outstanding request, the registrar may now destroy any document within (a) if he is satisfied that he has retained a copy of the document, or further retention of the document is unnecessary. The most important documents within (a) have already been electronically scanned which means that a full copy of each document is available for public inspection.

Land Registry will shortly issue a notice on their website, accompanied by press releases and notices to key stakeholders explaining that after a three month-period it will commence destroying the originals of these scanned documents. It is estimated that at least 5.5 million documents (or 35 million pages) will be affected.

In the case of documents within (b), the applicant has a choice at the outset whether to have the document returned. If the applicant requests the return of a document and provides a certified copy, the original is returned. The registrar may destroy the document if he is satisfied that either he has retained a sufficient copy (typically by scanning it) of the document or further retention is unnecessary.

In the case of an application for first registration of land, a certified copy is not required in respect of certain documents.

OASys System

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the cost has been of the OASys system since its inception in 2003. [228847]

Maria Eagle: The cost of supporting the OASys system since its inception in 2003 has been as follows:

Financial year	*£*
2003-04	562,905
2004-05	622,710
2005-06	2,065,125
2006-07	2,565,124
2007-08	3,105,616

The costs so far incurred in FY 2008/09 are £1,504,955.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library copies of the background papers and minutes from the inter-party discussions on party funding. [232911]

Mr. Wills: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) said in the debate on the publication of the White Paper, Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom, on 16 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 695, release of these papers is a matter for Sir Hayden Phillips. Sir Hayden indicated before Public Bill Committee on 4 November 2008 that he is actively considering the issue.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he gave to including provisions on electoral fraud in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [232912]

Mr. Wills: The Political Parties and Elections Bill is intended to implement a number of the proposals in the Government's White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom". It also contains two reforms deigned to assist the administration of electoral registration and of European Parliament elections.

The Government have put in place a number of measures to strengthen the security of the electoral system, in particular postal voting, through the Electoral Administration Act 2006 and associated secondary legislation. This includes the introduction of a system of personal identifiers for postal voters to ensure that postal votes counted at an election are valid. We believe that these measures are helping to reduce the number and scale of allegations of electoral offences.

The Electoral Commission's separate reports on the introduction of absent voting personal identifiers in England and Wales and on the May 2007 local government elections note that the introduction of personal identifiers for postal voters has had a positive impact on the safety and security of the electoral system, and that at the 2007 elections, the scale and volume of allegations of offences were both considerably down on 2006. More recently, the Electoral Commission concluded in its report on the May 2008 local elections in England that the available information suggests that the scale and volume of allegations of offences during the elections in May 2008 were down on 2007.

However, the Government are not complacent about the possibility of fraud, and we will keep the protections that are in place under review.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proposals on triggering were considered during the inter-party discussions on party funding. [232913]

Mr. Wills: Sir Hayden Phillips's final report, published in March 2007, explicitly acknowledged the problem of unregulated spending at a constituency level. His preferred solution was to set spending limits to embrace all national and local party spending. The White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom (CM7329)", published in June 2008, makes clear that the Government broadly support the principle of an all-encompassing spending limit, but that we believe there are a number of practical concerns that would need to be addressed before this could be introduced. Given that cross-party support for Sir Hayden Phillips' fundamental package of reforms is not yet forthcoming, the Government have therefore proposed a return to the principle of triggering.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) whether campaign expenditure funded by political parties and incurred by hon. Members promoting their role as a Member of Parliament, outside a general election period, will be considered as local campaigning expenditure for the purposes of the new trigger rules; [232914]

(2) at what point national campaign expenditure at constituency level will fall within the scope of the proposed new trigger rules; [232916]

(3) at what point *(a)* local association campaigning, *(b)* third party campaigning and *(c)* national party campaigning in a locality is proposed to be classified as local candidate spending for the purposes of the proposed new election trigger rules; [232920]

(4) whether direct mail correspondence to individual voters from *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* central political parties which does not mention local candidates will be considered local candidate expenditure for the purposes of the new election trigger rules. [232924]

Mr. Wills: The proposal to reintroduce triggering in relation to the candidate expenditure limit—contained in clause 10 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141)—will not alter the types of spending that do and do not count against the candidate expenditure limit. Rather, the proposal will alter the time period over which such expenditure is regulated. The key effect of the clause is to remove the requirement that only expenditure used after the date of Dissolution of Parliament is regulated by the expenditure limit. As is currently the case, expenses used by or on behalf of the candidate on matters listed in part 1 of schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act, which are for the purposes of the candidate's election will be regulated by the candidate spending limit. The point at which such expenses will count against the limit is the point at which expenses are used for the purposes of the candidate's election. As is currently the case, national party campaigning in a constituency or locality will not count against a candidate's expenditure limit.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration he gave to undertaking a formal consultation on his Department's proposals to introduce new trigger rules for local candidate expenditure. [232915]

Mr. Wills: The Government's intention to reintroduce triggering in relation to local candidate expenditure at parliamentary general elections was announced in the White Paper, "Party finance and expenditure in the United Kingdom (CM7329)", published and debated by both Houses of Parliament on 16 June 2008. The Political Parties and Elections Bill containing the measure was introduced on 17 July 2008. This provided opportunity for scrutiny and discussion of the Bill prior to its detailed consideration by Parliament.

The principle of triggering—that expenditure limits be set in terms of the purpose for which expenditure is incurred rather than in terms of any specified time period—was specifically endorsed by the 1998 Neill Committee Report and enjoyed broad cross-party support, prior to its removal by the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what consideration his Department has given to the introduction of guidance on the operation of the proposed new trigger rules in the Political Parties and Elections Bill to supersede the case law applicable to the old trigger rules. [232917]

Mr. Wills: The Bill provides that, in addition to the existing power granted to the Electoral Commission to issue a code of practice giving guidance on the list of regulated matters for candidate spending (set out in Part 1 of Schedule 4A of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as inserted by the Electoral Administration Act 2006), the Commission may also include in any code of practice guidance on when expenditure will be for election purposes (i.e. the circumstances in which the candidate spending limits are triggered).

This guidance will provide, where necessary, further clarity as to how the new rules will work in practice. It will not supplant any observations set out in existing case law as to how triggering will work in practice provided that those observations remain relevant. The precise relevance of pre-existing case law to the new regime will depend on the circumstances of each case and will ultimately be a matter for the courts to decide.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2028W, on political parties: finance, what consideration he gave to the Government *(a)* Codes of Practice on Guidance on Regulations and *(b)* Guide to Code of Practice on Guidance in formulating his policy on commencement of the new regulations on trigger rules before the issue of guidance on such regulations. [232918]

Mr. Wills: The Government's Code of Practice on Guidance on Regulation and the Guide to the Code of Practice on Guidance apply to guidance provided by UK Government Departments and their Agencies. The guidance referred to in the previous question is to be provided by the Electoral Commission, not by the Government.

Clause 19(4) of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141) provides that clause 10 of that Bill will come into force on the date on which the Bill receives Royal Assent. However, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Jack Straw) indicated before the Justice Committee on 7 October 2008, I agree that guidance supplementing the Act should be in place from the Electoral Commission and, in the light of that, I am ready to look at the timing of the commencement of this clause.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the proposed guidance from the Electoral Commission on triggering will be statutory. [232922]

Mr. Wills: I refer the hon. Member to my answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) on 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2290W.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice in what circumstances local candidate campaigning expenditure incurred before Royal Assent to the Political Parties and Election Bill will be treated as triggering a candidate's elections expenses. [232923]

Mr. Wills: There is express provision in the Political Parties and Elections Bill (in clause 10(5)) to make clear that the amendments made by that section do not apply to any expenses incurred before the commencement of that section. However, under section 90ZA of the Representation of the People Act 1983, as amended by the Bill, where expenses are incurred following commencement in respect of a matter listed in Schedule 4A to that Act and then used for the purposes of the candidate's election, the limit will have been triggered.

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice with reference to the impact assessment for the Political Parties and Elections Bill, what the evidential basis was for the estimate of five minutes' processing time per donation for the processing of a donation declaration; and what estimate his Department has made of the average time taken to verify the source of a donation. [232930]

Mr. Wills: The estimates in the impact assessment—both for processing declarations and for carrying out further verification checks in exceptional cases—were based on an assumption that the additional requirements on the parties to process declarations would be embedded to a degree within checks that they already carry out to ensure that the donations they accept are permissible under the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000.

The Government accept that a number of political parties are concerned that the impact assessment underestimates the compliance burden that the requirements of clause 8 might impose on political parties, and that the impact assessment understates the potential burden. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and Lord Chancellor indicated before the Public Bill Committee on 4 November, while we are aware that greater transparency is essential, it should not be achieved at the cost of overburdening political parties, and I am ready to consider raising the thresholds at which declarations are required.

Prison Service: Cost Effectiveness

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what cashable efficiency savings HM Prison Service is required to make in each of the next three years. [232647]

Maria Eagle: Budgets for those periods have not been agreed and it is not yet possible to report what savings will be required from HM Prison Service.

Prison Service: Taxis

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much the Prison Service has spent on taxis for prisoners in each of the last three years for which figures are available; [232250]

(2) how many prisoner journeys in the Thames Valley region were made by taxi or other private hire vehicle; and at what cost in *(a)* 2005-06 and *(b)* 2006-07; [232251]

(3) on how many occasions during the last two years private by-hired taxis have been used to transport prisoners *(a)* to and *(b)* from Reading Young Offenders Institution; and what category the prisoners were on each occasion; [232252]

(4) for what use, and in what circumstances, private taxis are used for the transporting of prisoners from *(a)* Reading Young Offenders Institution and *(b)* other young offenders institutions across the country; and what guidance is given by his Department on such use. [232253]

Mr. Hanson: Taxis are rarely used for transporting prisoners to and from court or for inter-prison transfers. On occasions they may be used for emergency transport, including hospital admission where an ambulance is not appropriate.

A risk assessment is conducted to ensure that the use of a taxi is appropriate. No prisoner being transported by taxi in 2006-07 and 2007-08 has escaped.

The cost of taxi fares are not recorded centrally and could be provided by contacting each prison only at a disproportionate cost.

Not all prisons record the number of taxi journeys involving prisoners. However, I can say that in the two years to 29 October, there have been 111 incoming taxis with prisoners to Reading prison and 231 taxis to transport prisoners from Reading prison.

Reading is a category C closed young offender institution, therefore all prisoners transported by taxi from and to Reading prison fall within this category.

There is no specific guidance to establishments on this matter beyond the general requirement to ensure value for money and operate within delegated budgets.

Reoffenders: Drugs

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of re-offending rates after 12 months of those in receipt of *(a)* a drug treatment and testing order and *(b)* a drug rehabilitation requirement. [232666]

Mr. Hanson: The following table shows the reoffending rate for offenders who started a drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) and a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) only between 1 January and 31 March, and reoffended within a year. The reoffending rate for offenders serving DTTOs reduced by 11.1 per cent. (8.8 percentage points) between 2002 and 2005 (due to the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 2003 and the changes this had on probation, a comparison between 2002 and 2006 is not made).

The results do not differentiate between those who successfully complete the order and those who do not. The evaluation of the Drug Treatment and Testing Order (Home Office Finding 184) compared reoffending over a two year follow up period for those made subject to a Drug Treatment and Testing Order over the 18 months to 31 March 2000. This compared the reconviction rate of those who successfully completed the order (53 per cent.) with those who did not (91 per cent.).

The reoffending rate for offenders who started a drug treatment and testing order (DTTO) and a drug rehabilitation requirement (DRR) only between 1 January and 31 March, and reoffended within 1 year

			Number of offenders	Actual reoffending rate (percentage)	Number of offences per 100 offenders[2]
DTTO	2002	Q1	991	78.1	421.6
	2003	Q1	1,136	77.3	380.9
	2004	Q1	1,726	72.6	332.1
	2005	Q1	1,923	76.3	366.9
	2006	Q1	116	98.5	596.0
DRR only	2006	Q1	225	62.6	233.0
DRR + other requirements	2006	Q1	2,012	66.4	275.9

Notes:
1. The drop in DTTOs from 2005 to 2006 is due to the introduction of the Criminal Justice Act 2003. From 4 April 2005, the main types of court order supervision served to offenders are community orders (CO) and suspended sentence orders (SSO). Under these orders, one or more of 12 possible requirements must be added, such as supervision, unpaid work and drug treatment. DRRs came into effect under the CJA03; as a result, reoffending rates could only be produced for the 2006 cohort. Due to small numbers, data for 2000 are not provided.
2. These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Young Offenders Institutions

David Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many young people arrived at Ashfield Young Offenders Institution for admission after 9 pm between July 2005 and March 2008; what steps he plans to take to reduce the number of young people arriving at the institution for admission after 9 pm; and if he will make a statement; [231240]

(2) how many times young people arrived at a young offenders institution after 7 pm in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007 and *(c)* 2008, broken down by institution. [231251]

Mr. Hanson: Escort contractors report that from a total of 7,847 young people under the age of 18 years escorted to HM young offenders institution, Ashfield between July 2005 and March 2008, 210 young people arrived after 9 pm. The Youth Justice Board is reviewing the current arrangements for the escort of young people.

Information provided by the escort contractors on the number of times that young people aged under 18 years arrived at a prison or young offenders institution after 7 pm in *(a)* 2006, *(b)* 2007, and *(c)* 2008, is in the following tables. However, the agreed reception closure time for the majority of young offenders institutions is after 7 pm.

Young prisoners aged under 18 years delivered to young offenders institutions and prisons after 1900 hours

1 January 2006 to 31 December 2006[1]

Establishment	*Number arriving after 1900 hours*	*Places available for young people under 18 years*[2]
HMP/YOI Ashfield	454	397
HMYOI Brinsford	159	221
HMP/YOI Castington	194	166
HMP Cookham Wood	14	16
HMP Downview	20	11
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	29	29
HMP/YOI Feltham	148	213
HMYOI Hindley	219	186
HMYOI Huntercombe	62	368
HMP/YOI Lancaster Farms	258	247
HMP/YOI New Hall	37	26
HMP/YOI Parc	9	35
HMYOI Stoke Heath	524	129
HMYOI Thorn Cross	18	43
HMYOI Warren Hill	174	214
HMYOI Werrington	90	156
HMYOI Wetherby	153	356

[1] This excludes young prisoners escorted from courts in the London and South East area for which data is unavailable.
[2] At 31 October 2006.

1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007

Establishment	*Number arriving after 1900 hours*	*Places available for young people under 18 years*[1]
HMP/YOI Ashfield	875	391
HMYOI Brinsford	192	162
HMP/YOI Castington	182	157
HMP Cookham Wood	8	15
HMP Downview	23	16
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	35	14
HMP/YOI Feltham	605	219
HMP Foston Hall	37	11
HMYOI Hindley	977	173
HMYOI Huntercombe	325	363
HMP/YOI Lancaster Farms	452	207
HMP/YOI New Hall	58	24
HMP/YOI Parc	19	58
HMYOI Stoke Heath	563	137
HMYOI Thorn Cross	22	40
HMYOI Warren Hill	522	211
HMYOI Werrington	103	147
HMYOI Wetherby	368	360

[1] At 31 October 2007.

	1 January 2008 to 30 September 2008	
Establishment	*Number arriving after 1900 hours*	*Places available for young people under 18 years*[1]
HMP/YOI Ashfield	540	346
HMYOI Brinsford	57	108
HMP/YOI Castington	78	141
HMP Cookham Wood	13	77
HMP Downview	30	13
HMP/YOI Eastwood Park	45	12
HMP/YOI Feltham	608	198
HMP Foston Hall	17	13
HMYOI Hindley	114	172
HMYOI Huntercombe	407	332
HMP/YOI Lancaster Farms	181	185
HMP/YOI New Hall	30	25
HMP/YOI Parc	12	57
HMYOI Stoke Heath	337	194
HMYOI Warren Hill	475	208
HMYOI Werrington	93	123
HMYOI Wetherby	130	328

[1] At 31 October 2008.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that CAFCASS mediation, investigations and section 7 reports under the auspices of the Children Act 1989 include consideration of the relationship between grandparents and grandchildren; and if he will make a statement. [232908]

Beverley Hughes: Each case, CAFCASS is involved in complies with the principles and detail of the Children Act 1989, which states at s1(1) that the child's welfare shall be the paramount consideration. CAFCASS also take account of the welfare checklist in the Act, which requires consideration of the capability not only of the parents, but any other person in relation to whom the court considers the question to be relevant.

The Government recognise the important role played by family relatives in the lives of children and young people, including grandparents. The option of sole, shared or occasional care by grandparents is considered routinely by CAFCASS in its assessments, case analyses and case plans. At a national level, CAFCASS liaises with all the major organisations representing grandparents, and takes account of their views when shaping its policies.

Children: Day Care

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of unregistered child minders operating in England; and what assessment has been made of trends in that number in recent years; [233560]

(2) how many unregistered child minders have been reported to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* Ofsted and *(c)* another relevant authority in each of the last five years. [233561]

Beverley Hughes: All child minders are required to be registered with Ofsted and to satisfy their safety and quality criteria.

We do not hold information centrally concerning reports of unregistered child care providers.

When completing their child care sufficiency assessments, local authorities should have developed an understanding of parents' use of informal child care as part of the context for assessing the sufficiency of formal child care.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232726]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of all the Department's contingent liabilities are reported to Parliament on an annual basis in its statutory resource accounts and in its Supply Estimates. Details of contingent liabilities relating to the Department's non-departmental public bodies will be similarly published in their annual resource accounts.

The publication dates for the Department's resource accounts for the last five years (including the former Department for Education and Skills) are:

2007-08: 16 July 2008 (Department for Children, Schools and Families);

2006-07: 16 July 2007 (Department for Education and Skills);

2005-06: 20 July 2006 (Department for Education and Skills);

2004-05: 23 November 2005 (Department for Education and Skills);

2003-04: 27 January 2005 (Department for Education and Skills).

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231368]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department for Children, Schools and Families was supplied media monitoring—TV, radio, newspapers, regional and national—services by the following organisations:

Media Monitoring Unit of the Central Office of Information: £78,000 for 2008-09 and 2007-08 and £75,000 for 2006-07;

Durrants: £150,000 p.a. for 2008-09 and 2007-08;

Electronic Data Services: £163,000 p.a. for 2006-07;

TNS: £12,000 for 2008-09;

Government News Network: £30,000 for 2007-08 and £30,000 for 2006-07.

We have no information on services used by the Department's agencies or non-departmental public bodies.

Faith Schools: Health Services

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 488W, on faith schools: health services, if he will place in the Library a copy of *(a)* the questionnaire that was issued to teenage pregnancy co-ordinators in each top-tier local authority in England and *(b)* the response received from each; and if he will make a statement. [232003]

Beverley Hughes: Copies of the questionnaire issued to teenage pregnancy co-ordinators and the subsequent report that summarised the findings of the mapping survey will be placed in the House of Commons Library.

The information provided to DCSF by the Sex Education Forum—which carried out the mapping survey—gave only the prevalence of on-site services nationally, and in each region and top-tier local authority. The individual questionnaires were completed by teenage pregnancy co-ordinators on the understanding that they would not be used in a way which could identify individual schools and this information is not held by this Department.

Foster Care

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many foster children aged *(a)* 17, *(b)* 18, *(c)* 19 and *(d)* 20 years were with foster families as at one appropriate date in each of the last five years. [233213]

Beverley Hughes: The available information can be found in the following table.

Children looked after in foster placements at 31 March[1, 2]

	Number of 17-year-olds looked after in foster placements	*Total number of looked-after children in foster placements*
2004	2,000	41,200
2005	2,100	41,300
2006	2,200	41,600
2007	2,400	42,100
2008	2,500	42,300

[1] Source: SSDA903 return on children looked after.

[2] Figures exclude children looked after under an agreed series of short-term placements.

Young people above the age of 18 are not in care and their placements are not defined as foster care, therefore, the requested information is not available. However, increasing numbers of young people are staying with their former foster carers after they reach 18 and our "Staying Put" pilots support local authorities to make these arrangements.

The Department collects statistics annually on the activity and accommodation of care leavers at age 19. The definitions of categories of accommodation do not currently include a 'with former foster carer' category. During the Report stage of the Children and Young Persons Bill on 8 October, the Minister for Schools and Learners announced that consideration would be given to amending, from 2010-11, the categories in this collection to highlight placement with former foster carers.

Health Education: Sex

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether he plans to implement the recommendations of the Review of Sex and Relationship Education; whether he plans to consult on these recommendations; and if he will make a statement. [233919]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government published their response to the sex and relationships education (SRE) review on 23 October. This set out their response to each recommendation and their plans for further consultation. A copy of the Government's response is available at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13030

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many powers of entry have been *(a)* introduced and *(b)* abolished by his Department through legislation since 1997. [228157]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the reply given by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 452W.

Pre-school Education: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many free nursery places for three and four year olds have been made available in Enfield North constituency since the establishment of the free nursery places scheme. [233891]

Beverley Hughes: The available information is shown in the tables.

Table 1 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds in Enfield North parliamentary constituency area. Data at parliamentary constituency level are not yet available for 2008.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1, 2, 3] *filled by three and four-year-olds—parliamentary constituency: Enfield North*

Position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			*Four-year-olds*		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[5]	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[6]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[7]	*Total four-year-olds*
2004	510	410	910	1,000	160	1,200
2005	550	390	950	1,100	110	1,200
2006	550	380	930	1,100	130	1,200

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] [3] filled by three and four-year-olds—parliamentary constituency: Enfield North

Position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[5]	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[6]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*[7]	*Total four-year-olds*
2007	550	450	1,000	1,100	150	1,300

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Prior to 2004, information on early education places was derived from returns made by local authorities as part of the Nursery Education Grant (NEG) data collection exercise. These data were collected at local authority level, therefore, data for this parliamentary constituency prior to 2004 is not available.

[4] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[6] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

Table 2 provides information about the part-time equivalent number of free early education places filled by three and four-year-olds for Enfield local authority area for the years 1999 to 2008.

Part-time equivalent number of free early education places[1] [2] filled by three and four-year-olds—local authority: Enfield

Position in January each year

	Three-year-olds			Four-year-olds		
	Maintained nursery and primary schools[3]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total three-year-olds*	*Maintained nursery and primary schools*[4]	*Other maintained and private, voluntary and independent providers*	*Total four-year-olds*
1999	1,200	n/a	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,400
2000	1,200	[7]0	1,200	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,700
2001	1,200	[7]1,000	2,300	n/a	n/a	[5,6]3,500
2002	1,300	[7]930	2,200	3,100	[5]560	3,600
2003	1,200	[7]1,100	2,400	3,100	[5]600	3,700
2004	1,300	[9]1,400	2,700	2,900	[8]640	3,500
2005	1,400	[9]1,400	2,800	3,100	[10]490	3,600
2006	1,300	[9]1,500	2,800	3,000	[10]520	3,600
2007	1,400	[9]1,600	2,900	3,100	[10]580	3,700
2008	1,400	[9]1,700	3,100	3,300	[10]590	3,900

n/a = Not available.

[1] A place is equal to five or more sessions and can be filled by more than one child.

[2] Figures are rounded to the nearest 100 if they exceed 1,000 and to the nearest 10 otherwise.

[3] Headcount of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[4] Headcount of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the School Census.

[5] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[6] For the years 1999-2001, four-year-old sub national figures from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise cannot be disaggregated between the maintained and private, voluntary and independent sectors.

[7] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Nursery Education Grant data collection exercise.

[8] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census supplementary data collection exercise and the School Census.

[9] Part-time equivalent number of children aged three at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

[10] Part-time equivalent number of children aged four at 31 December in the previous calendar year from the Early Years Census and the School Census.

The latest figures on early education places for three and four-year-olds in England were published in Statistical First Release (SFR) 12/2008 "Provision for children under five years of age in England: January 2008", available on my Department's website:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000790/index.shtml

Primary Education: Nurses

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many primary schools do not have a school nurse. [233670]

Jim Knight: We do not hold this information. However, all primary schools have access to the school nursing service through their local primary care trust.

Primary Schools: Absenteeism

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps the Government is taking to address non-attendance at primary schools. [233281]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department is determined to get overall absence down in all schools. Absence in 2006-07 ([illegible]st complete year for which data have been publishe[illegible] was 6.49 per cent.—the lowest level on record in state funded schools. Absence has been lower than 1996-97 levels in all but two of the last 10 years. And on average 58,000 more pupils were in school each day in 2006-07 than would be the case if absence rates were still at the level of a decade ago.

We have achieved this considerable progress by targeting persistent absence in secondary schools. Secondary schools have higher absence rates than primary schools.

We do not ignore primary schools. When the National Strategies visit a Local authority with high persistent absence in secondary schools they also work with the local authority attendance leader to determine what is happening in primary schools and the advice they give applies equally to primary schools. All local authorities update their actions to improve attendance and reduce persistent absence on a termly basis with the National Strategies regional adviser and primary attendance now is a focus of those discussions. All local authorities also have a standards meeting in the autumn term where targets and priorities are discussed. Although these meetings are still taking place many local authorities have decided to have persistent absence as a priority with particular reference to primary schools. The National Strategies are running a pilot on improving attendance in primary schools with a number of local authorities in London. We will carefully consider the lessons learned from that pilot and the implications for our policy to target persistent absence.

Pupil Exclusions: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many pupils were temporarily excluded more than *(a)* once, *(b)* five times and *(c)* 10 times in Suffolk in each of the last five years; [233508]

(2) how many pupils were permanently excluded more than *(a)* once and *(b)* twice in Suffolk in each of the last five years. [233509]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Data on the numbers of pupils with fixed period exclusions were collected for the first time for the school year 2003/04, therefore data can only be provided for the last four school years. Data on permanent exclusions are available for the last five years.

However it is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to these questions within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House of Commons Library within 10 working days.

School Leaving

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the percentage of pupils who will continue their education at their current secondary school when the requirement for young people to continue in education or training until the age of 18 comes into effect. [233935]

Jim Knight: Our proposals would not raise the school leaving age, but would introduce compulsory participation in some form of learning post-16. This could be in full-time education; work-based learning; or part-time education or training alongside full-time employment. The local authority will plan learning provision based on an assessment of the needs in the area and young people will be able to choose which route to follow. We have not estimated the percentage of pupils who will continue at their current secondary school.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether schools for pupils aged 11 to 16 years old will be required to provide education for a further year when the requirement for young people to continue in education or training until the age of 18 comes into effect; and if he will make a statement. [233936]

Jim Knight: Our intention is that from 2013 all young people will be required to carry on in some form of education or training post-16. This would not have to be at a school, and young people could choose to participate through full-time education, including at school or college; work-based learning; or part-time accredited training alongside full-time employment. Schools which currently provide education up to age 16 will not be required to provide an additional year of education as a result of this policy.

Schools: Choice Advisers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what assessment he has made of the effect choice advisers have had on standards in education; and if he will make a statement; [233608]

(2) how many choice advisers were employed in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [233609]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Choice Advice is an independent service commissioned by local authorities to support the minority of parents who most need help to negotiate the secondary school admissions process. We would not expect Choice Advice to have a measurable impact on standards in education. We would expect it to have a positive impact on the parents who have accessed it, in terms of the ease with which they were able to negotiate the admissions process and the extent to which they felt able to make appropriate choices for their child.

We recently funded Sheffield Hallam University to conduct an evaluation of Choice Advice in 15 case study local authorities. The report will be published later this month and will be available at http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/research/ and will include an evaluation of the impact that Choice Advice had on the parents who accessed it.

The Choice Advice initiative was launched in September 2006 and we set a target of September 2008 for every local authority to have a Choice Advice service in place. Local authorities have the flexibility to make Choice Advice available in the way which best meets local needs. Some may employ only one choice adviser while others may find they need more than one. Similarly, some may employ full time choice advisers while others may employ choice advisers on a seasonal basis.

Information provided by local authorities to the Choice Advisers Support and Quality Assurance Network indicate that, by September 2007, there were 183 choice advisers employed across England and, by September 2008, there were 251 choice advisers employed across England.

Schools: Crime

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many incidents in *(a)* primary schools and *(b)* secondary schools involved (i) knives and (ii) drugs in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [233272]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Schools are generally safe places for pupils and staff.

The Department does not collect information on the number of knives confiscated from pupils in schools, and there is no duty on schools to report to the Department when they find a weapon on a pupil.

The Department does not record each individual incident that involves drugs, however such incidents are recorded if they lead to an exclusion. In 2006-07 there were 400 permanent exclusions in secondary schools related to drugs or alcohol which is around 5.3 per cent. of all permanent exclusions in secondary schools for that year. There were 60 fixed term exclusion related to drugs and alcohol in primary schools (0.1 per cent. of all primary school fixed term exclusions), and 7,840 in secondary schools (2.2 per cent. of all secondary schools fixed term exclusions).

Special Educational Needs

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many schools for pupils with special needs have *(a)* been opened and *(b)* closed in England since 1997. [227902]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Pupils with special educational needs are likely to be attending all types of school. My Department's records, based on information provided by local authorities, indicate that the following numbers of schools have opened and closed since 1997:

Number of establishments opened in England since 1997

Type of establishment	*Total*
Academies	130
Community	1,065
Community special	172
European schools	2
Foundation	37
Voluntary aided	208
Voluntary controlled	106
Non-maintained special schools	19
Independent mainstream schools	532
Independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN approved under section 347 of the Education Act 1996	19
Independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN not approved under section 347 of the Education Act 1996	372
Grand total	2,662

Number of establishments closed in England since 1997

Type of establishment	*Total*
City technology college	12
Community	2,548
Community special	374
Foundation	66
Foundation special	5
Voluntary aided	316
Voluntary controlled	218
Non-maintained special schools	14
Independent mainstream schools	779
Independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN approved under section 347 of the Education Act 1996	17
Independent schools catering wholly or mainly for pupils with SEN not approved under section 347 of the Education Act 1996	71
Grand total	4,420

Source:
Compiled from EduBase

Schools can be opened and closed for a number of reasons including the need to meet demographic changes (e.g. population decline); as part of an amalgamation; as part of another type of local reorganisation; or, changes to age ranges such as a primary school being created from formerly separate infants' and junior schools. Each of these examples would result in opening or closure (or both) being recorded.

In this context, between 1986 and 1997 there was a net reduction of 234 maintained special schools, and between 1997 and 2008 there has been a net reduction of 172 maintained special schools.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 10 November 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Air Travel

Mr. Maude: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission what the amount of *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul air mileage of hon. Members used to calculate the House payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund was in each year that the House has been a member of the Offsetting Fund. [233644]

Nick Harvey: The House has made an annual payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund since 2006-07. The figures requested are as follows:

		Miles
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Domestic	1,965,156	1,689,817
Short haul	1,561,170	1,726,554
Long haul	4,743,821	4,305,546

Commuters: Sustainable Development

Gwyn Prosser: To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will develop a workplace travel plan to reduce the environmental impact of travel by House staff. [233547]

Nick Harvey: Staff are encouraged to use bicycles through the provision of bicycle loans and cycle racks, and are encouraged to use public transport through the provision of season ticket loans. The possibility of developing a sustainable travel to work policy will be considered as part of developing the House's environmental strategy.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has paid to the Cooperative Wholesale Society or its farming division in respect of *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU payments for the production at its Stoughton Farm Estate in Harborough of (i) wheat, (ii) barley, (iii) oats, (iv) other cereal crops, (v) oil seed rape, (vi) beans and (vii) all other arable farm produce in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available; and in each case what tonnage was in respect of which the payment was made. [231319]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* Arable area payments were made under the arable area payments scheme (AAPS), which were based on payments per hectare and not by commodity or weight.

In 2005 they were replaced by payments under the single payment scheme (SPS).

AAPS and SPS information is not held specifically for Stoughton Farm Estate and to extract it is not possible without incurring disproportionate costs.

Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much public funding is being provided to each Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty in 2008-09; and what account is taken of the size of Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty in determining the allocation of funding to them. [232510]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The responsibility for funding Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONBs) rests with Natural England and Defra would not interfere in the decisions Natural England takes in setting the budget of any AONB.

The funding for AONBs consists of three elements: core funding for staff and essential administrative costs; projects; and the Sustainable Development Fund. In 2008-09 Natural England has been able to add 2 per cent. to AONB core grants. Core funding is based on a formula which, among other factors, takes into account the area of each AONB. However, funding for projects has had to be prioritised to those of highest importance and those which AONB partnerships are locked into, such as Heritage Lottery Fund schemes. As for the Sustainable Development Fund, each AONB can bid for up to £61,666 from Natural England. There is, therefore, no strict correlation between the area of any one AONB and the amount of total funding it receives and it is inappropriate to relate the total funding of any AONB to its area.

The total funding being provided by Natural England to each of the AONBs for 2008-09 is:

	£
Arnside and Silverdale	180,871
Blackdown Hills	213,481
Cannock Chase	185,968
Chichester Harbour	188,816
Chilterns	570,638
Cornwall	235,666
Cotswolds	577,926
Cranborne Chase and West Wiltshire Downs	295,501
Dedham Vale	202,174
Dorset	314,510
East Devon	205,542
Forest of Bowland	282,639
High Weald	347,067
Howardian Hills	157,666
Isle of Wight	178,177
Isles of Scilly	159,536
Kent Downs	303,727
Lincolnshire Wolds	207,343
Malvern Hills	186,771

	£
Mendip Hills	213,459
Nidderdale	229,809
Norfolk Coast	198,733
North Devon	186,652
North Pennines	412,846
North Wessex Downs	315,422
Northumberland Coast	178,679
Quantock Hills	207,941
Shropshire Hills	251,306
Solway Coast	177,583
South Devon	202,381
South Downs (Sussex Downs and East Hampshire)	1,049,961
Suffolk Coasts and Heaths	212,371
Surrey Hills	238,186
Tamar Valley	245,166
Wye Valley	168,166
Total	9,482,683

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on its communications campaign to promote uptake of the bluetongue vaccination in each year since its inception. [233353]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* In line with the core group of industry stakeholders, the Government consider that mass vaccination through the 2008 programme for Bluetongue type 8 (the only programme so far) can be best and most rapidly achieved through a voluntary approach, supported by an industry-led campaign promoting the benefits of vaccination. DEFRA has contributed to the industry campaign by giving prominence to bluetongue messages in its existing communications channels, e.g. website, advertising in farming press and campaigns such as Livestock Market Roadshows and the website-based 'Give Disease the Boot' campaign. In addition, DEFRA has worked with the Animal Health Agency to alert local veterinary surgeons and others to the availability of vaccine as it has been rolled out across England.

These costs for bluetongue vaccination campaigns are not available separately. However, the overall indicative budget for Livestock Markets Roadshows and Animal Disease Prevention communications (excluding publications, Farming Link and shows) is £400,000 in the current financial year. In the 2007-08 financial year, the total spend amounted to approximately £280,000.

Carbon Emissions: New Forest

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what the carbon footprint of the New Forest National Park was in the latest period for which figures are available; and *(a)* by what means and *(b)* to what extent it will be reduced if the draft Recreation Management Strategy is adopted; [227623]

(2) whether it is the policy of the New Forest National Park Authority to include traffic on the A31 trunk road within the calculation of its carbon footprint. [228030]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answers 16 and 17 October 2008]:* Carbon footprint figures are not currently available by National Park boundary. There are technical hurdles to producing such figures which DEFRA is currently exploring, and I shall write to the hon. Member before the end of the year to report progress.

The Recreation Management Strategy is being produced by the National Park Authority who (subject to the technical constraints mentioned above) would be responsible for assessing its impact.

Combined Heat and Power: Government Departments

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what proportion of the electricity consumption that the Government sources from combined heat and power is obtained from combined heat and power stations located on the Government estate. [221879]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

There are 10 combined heat and power (CHP) schemes located on the Government estate registered with the Government's CHP Quality Assurance programme (CHPQA). In 2007-08 these 10 schemes produced just over 19 gigawatt hours of Good Quality CHP electricity. This represents around 0.1 per cent. of the 28,677 gigawatts electricity produced in total by Good Quality CHP plants in the UK in 2007.

Early information from the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) as part of its annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report indicates that total CHP generated electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08 was 311 gigawatt hours. This would mean that the 19 gigawatt hours of Good Quality CHP electricity generated on the Government estate represents round 6 per cent. of the total CHP electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230956]

Hilary Benn: None.

Wood: Sustainable Development

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what consideration he has given to the introduction of binding regulations to provide that timber used in new buildings is sourced in a legal and sustainable manner. [232125]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The UK Government's Forest Governance and Trade Programme aims to tackle illegal logging and trade associated with it. It works to promote governance reforms in developing countries where illegal logging is a problem, and to improve the functioning of markets for wood products. Efforts focus on negotiating and implementing bilateral Voluntary Partnership Agreements (VPAs) between timber-producing countries and the EU, as part of the Forest Law Enforcement, Governance and Trade (FLEGT) Action Plan.

The European Commission published recently a proposal for legislation requiring traders in timber to exercise due diligence to ensure that the timber they buy and sell is legally harvested. Once the regulation is agreed, the new requirements will ensure that legally harvested timber only is traded in the EU.

The UK has lobbied hard for Community-wide measures to exclude illegal timber from the European market. This legislation will support the Government's efforts under the FLEGT Action Plan, which provides support to timber-producing countries who have problems with illegal logging to verify the legality of timber exports. The UK seeks to work in collaboration with other EU member states in preference to unilaterally introducing binding regulations.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid to consultants by his Department in each year since 1998-99. [232874]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on consultants (excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs) since 2002-03:

	Consultancy expenditure (£)
2002-03	3,683,447
2003-04	4,268,556
2004-05	4,557,883
2005-06	6,169,360
2006-07	5,153,102
2007-08	5,048,116

The value of payments for consultancy prior to 2002-03 would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people who were not born in the United Kingdom his Department employs. [234247]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold a central record of how many people who were not born in the United Kingdom are employed within the Department.

Departmental Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* its non-departmental public bodies in each of the last three years; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231328]

Paul Goggins: Details of organisations which provided media monitoring services to the Northern Ireland Office, its agencies and non-departmental public bodies are included in the following table:

	Cost by financial year (including VAT)		
			£
Organisation	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Anderson Spratt Group[1]	282	846	846
NIMMS[2]	—	327	4,438
E Map Services[2]	523	—	2,555
News Extract[2]	512	3,756	1,235
Energy Data Services[3]	23,663	2,600	—
Stakeholder Communications Ltd.[4]	65,106.50	76,438.04	57,370.21

[1] Commissioned by Youth Justice Agency.
[2] Commissioned by Probation Board N.I.
[3] Commissioned by Northern Ireland Information Service.
[4] Commissioned by Parades Commission.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many people over the age of *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 work for his Department; and what percentage of employees these groups represent. [234255]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office 252 staff are aged 55 and over. This represents 12 per cent. of the total number of staff. The number of staff aged 60 and over is 74, this represents 3 per cent. of the total number of staff.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many non-pensionable bonuses were awarded to members of staff in his Department in the last 12 months; and at what cost. [234232]

Mr. Woodward: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1169-70W.

Female Staff

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of employees working for his Department are female. [234254]

Paul Goggins: As at 1 November 2008, 62 per cent. of employees within the Northern Ireland Office are female.

Fingerprints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) how many times suspects have been wrongfully arrested in Northern Ireland on the basis of mistaken belief by police officers of identity that was later found to be incorrect after fingerprinting in the last 12 months; [233611]

(2) whether he plans to introduce MIDAS handheld fingerprint scanners for use by police officers in Northern Ireland. [233738]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Judges: Appointments

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the criteria will be for the appointment of judges in Northern Ireland following the devolution of policing and justice. [234162]

Paul Goggins: Under section 5 of the Justice (Northern Ireland) Act 2002, the selection of a person for judicial office, within the remit of the Judicial Appointments Commission for Northern Ireland (up to and including High Court judge), is to be made solely on the basis of merit. Subject to that, the Commission is to engage in a programme of action to secure as far as reasonably practicable that those holding judicial office are reflective of the community in Northern Ireland. The requirements of section 5 apply both before and after the devolution of policing and justice.

Parades: Belfast

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what reports he has received of the behaviour of some participants in the Belfast Pride Parade on 2 August 2008 towards those who were protesting against the parade. [232877]

Paul Goggins: The Secretary of State did not receive any reports on the behaviour of participants in the Belfast Pride Parade. Monitors in attendance at the parade would have reported directly to the Parades Commission.

Police

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many police officers there were in Northern Ireland per 1,000 population in *(a)* 2002 and *(b)* 2007. [232837]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Public Relations

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was paid to public relations companies by his Department in each year since 1998-99. [232873]

Mr. Woodward: The following table provides details of the Northern Ireland Office's expenditure on external contracts with public relations companies (excluding Agencies and Executive NDPBs) since 2002-03:

	Value of contracts (£)
2002-03	39,672
2003-04	160,397
2004-05	153,723
2005-06	91,858
2006-07	140,806
2007-08	121,504

The value of external contracts with public relations companies prior to 2002-03 would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Tourism

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had in order to promote Northern Ireland as a tourist destination to the rest of the United Kingdom. [234180]

Mr. Woodward: I always take the opportunity to promote Northern Ireland as a tourism destination whenever circumstances permit. However, tourism is a devolved matter in Northern Ireland and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment has formal responsibility for the marketing and development of Northern Ireland tourism.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many and what proportion of written questions for answer on a named day he has answered on the due date in Session 2007-08. [234179]

Mr. Woodward: Of the 89 named day questions received, my Department has answered 45 on the due date. This represents 51 per cent.

These figures cover named day questions tabled up to and including 6 November.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* British and *(b)* NATO troops he expects to be deployed in Afghanistan in each of the next three years. [232930]

Mr. Hutton: NATO currently has approximately 50,000 troops in Afghanistan. The UK is the second largest force contributor to Afghanistan with around 8,000 troops mainly based in the south of the country.

We do not comment on future deployments but our troop contribution to the International Security Assistance Force is kept under regular review.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1227W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the difference will be in the proportionality of response available to situations on the ground when the aircraft types are changed over. [233925]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* There will be no significant difference in the proportionality of response available to situations on the ground when aircraft types are changed. Both aircraft are fully capable of delivering the required effects.

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1227W, on Afghanistan: peacekeeping operations, what the differences in capability are. [233927]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: There are no significant differences in the operational capabilities provided by the two aircraft. Both are fully capable of delivering the required effects. I am withholding detailed information on capabilities as its release would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of our armed forces.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Minister for Defence Procurement has visited Afghanistan. [234053]

Mr. Quentin Davies: I have not yet visited Afghanistan but will be visiting shortly.

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Newport, West (Paul Flynn) of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 9, on Afghanistan, which eight districts in Helmand province under the control of NATO and the Afghanistan forces he referred to; and if he will make a statement [234124]

Mr. Hutton: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 622W.

Armed Forces: Weapons

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many times the Warrior chain gun has fired undemanded since 2000; and what steps are being taken to prevent this happening. [233721]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There have been four confirmed cases of the Warrior chain gun firing un-demanded since 2000. A total of 17 cases were recorded during this period, but after investigation by the MOD's serious equipment failure investigation team, 13 of these were found to be negligent discharges (human error) or undemanded operation (usually identified during pre-firing checks or maintenance procedures) where the gun operated, but no rounds were fired.

To prevent un-demanded firings MOD is improving a number of vehicle sub-systems. This includes upgrading the chain gun control unit, which controls the firing of the gun, replacing the existing foot firing switch with a hand firing switch to operate the gun, and enhancements to turret electronics to prevent the possibility of short circuits. The modification programme is significantly improving the reliability of the chain gun across both Challenger and Warrior vehicle fleets. I am looking closely at the issue to see if there is more that can be done.

Armed Forces: Young People

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) if he will initiate a feasibility study on the phasing out of recruitment of under 18 year olds into the armed forces; and if he will make a statement; [233116]

(2) what procedures are in place for advice to be give to under 18 year olds on the risks they are likely to face on recruitment into the armed forces; [233117]

(3) if he will bring forward proposals to ensure the risks of joining the armed forces are explained by an independent responsible adult to any potential recruit under the age of 18 years before that person signs any binding agreement to enlist; [233118]

(4) whether young people joining the armed forces before their 18th birthday are free to leave as of right; and if he will make a statement. [233115]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are no plans to phase out the recruitment of under 18s into the armed forces. If the armed forces were required to raise the minimum age of entry, it would create serious manning problems, since 28 per cent. of all recruits in FY2007-08 were aged under 18. The services, in particular the Army, would be unable to man current structures and maintain current capabilities. It is probable that should the minimum entry age be raised, good quality school leavers would settle into other careers and thus be lost to the services.

All service personnel under 18 years of age who have completed 28 days service have a right of discharge within the first six months of service by giving not less than 14 days notice in writing to the commanding officer if they decide that the armed forces are not a career for them. In addition, service personnel under 18 years three months who have passed their statutory six month period for "discharge as of right", and have registered, before reaching their 18th birthday, clear 'unhappiness' at their choice of career, can request permission to leave the armed forces.

No young person under the age of 18 years may join the UK armed forces unless their application is accompanied by the formal written consent of his or her parents or guardian. This has then to be witnessed by someone of standing in the community, before the applicant can enter service. There is already a robust system in place ensuring that all potential recruits are given full details of all the advantages and risks involved in service life. Throughout the recruit selection process, the staffs at the Armed Forces Careers Offices (AFCO) provide comprehensive written and verbal guidance to all potential recruits, in particular those of less than 18 years of age, and their parents or guardians. This guidance covers the potential recruit's terms and conditions of service, the commitments that they would be undertaking, and their rights to discharge.

It is defence policy that service personnel under the age of 18 are not deployed on operations outside of the UK, except where the operation does not involve personnel becoming engaged in, or exposed to, hostilities. In addition, in line with UN policy, service personnel under 18 are not deployed on UN peacekeeping operations.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* tanks, *(b)* artillery pieces, *(c)* Royal Air Force fighter aircraft, *(d)* frigates and destroyers and *(e)* infantry the armed forces had in (i) 1979, (ii) 1990, (iii) 1997, (iv) 2001 and (v) 2006. [234119]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: This information is set out from 1992 onwards in UK Defence Statistics, and before that in its predecessor, volume 2 of the Statement on Defence Estimates. Copies of both are available in the Library of the House.

AWE Aldermaston

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of the Preliminary Safety and Environment Document for the proposed Uranium Enrichment Facility at AWE Aldermaston. [234201]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As I stated in my answer on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W, there are no plans to build a uranium enrichment facility at the atomic weapons establishment.

Should the proposed replacement uranium handling facility, to which I also referred, proceed, a preliminary safety report will then be completed as required by the Health and Safety Executive.

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether construction of the proposed uranium enrichment facility at AWE Aldermaston will be financed through a private finance initiative scheme; and what the *(a)* principles are and *(b)* mechanism is by which the project will be financed. [234202]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As I stated in my answer on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 300W, there are no plans to build a uranium enrichment facility at the atomic weapons establishment.

We have no plans to introduce private finance into the proposed replacement uranium handling facility to which I also referred. Funding for the project will be allocated in accordance with normal MOD processes.

AWE Burghfield

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the area protected under the terms of section 128 of the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCAP) at AWE Burghfield extends beyond the nuclear licensed site boundary; and for what reason the area is shown as extending beyond the licensed site boundary on the SOCAP map prepared by Defence Estates. [234204]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The area at AWE Burghfield that is protected under the Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 (SOCAP) is greater than that of the nuclear licensed site. It extends to the outer perimeter of the site in accordance with the provisions of section 128 of SOCAP relating to nuclear sites.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Mrs. Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Army has provided training to the 15th Mobile Brigade of the Colombian Army. [233615]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I have made clear in previous answers, the Ministry of Defence does not provide training to whole units such as the 15th Mobile Brigade of the Colombian Army.

Departmental Fuels

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost was of each purchase of fuel made by his Department in each of the last nine months. [234319]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Figures for each purchase of ground fuels made in each of last nine months are not held in the format requested and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The following tables set out the information for bulk fuel purchases by the Defence Fuels Group for aviation turbine and marine diesel between February and October 2008.

Aviation turbine

Date (2008)	*Cost (£ million)*
February	21.34
March	28.90
April	13.45
May	13.01
June	44.58
July	16.55
August	13.17
September	10.84
October	[1]—

[1] Data not yet available.

Marine diesel

Date (2008)	*Cost (£ million)*
February	4.17
March	[1]—
April	21.35
May	19.94
June	[1]—
July	39.56
6 August	11.24
17 September	5.65
October	[1]—

[1] No purchases.

Departmental Manpower

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has to alter the size of his Department's staff complement; and what account of his Department's capacity to respond to security threats was taken in the formulation of such plans. [233576]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: Plans for the future size of the armed forces are published in Defence Plan 2008-12, as follows:

	2008-09	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*2011-12*
Royal Navy	35,790	35,410	35,360	35,380
Army	101,660	101,630	100,560	101,510
RAF	40,830	40,360	40,670	40,170

These plans reflect the expected future security environment and security threats set out in our internal Defence Strategic Guidance, translated by Defence Planning Assumptions into the required future force structure.

The civilian work force comprised 88,020 full-time equivalents on 1 October 2008. While we do not set civilian requirements in the same way as for the armed forces, we expect the civilian work force to decrease over the next few years as a result of change programmes, including Head Office Streamlining, the 'PACE' initiative in Defence Equipment and Support and transfers of civilian personnel into the private sector (for example, the Royal School of Military Engineering Public Private Partnership). Further reductions may occur as we continue to review our manpower requirements to ensure that we are delivering best value for money, while continuing to deliver Defence outputs.

Kenley Airfield

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current budget allocation for the erection of a perimeter fence at Kenley Aerodrome is; and what the budget allocation for the previous design of this undertaking was. [234208]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The initial and current budget allocation for the erection of a perimeter fence at Kenley Aerodrome is as follows:

Financial year	*Budget allocation (£ estimated)*
2006-07	154,000
2009-10	100,000

Meteorological Office: Data Protection

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the circumstances were of the Meteorological Office protected personal data related incident in November 2006; and what data were lost or compromised. [233410]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The incident in question relates to the theft of items locked in the luggage area of a vehicle being used by Met Office staff. Among the items stolen were a Met Office laptop computer, personal digital assistant and USB drive. These items contained the work contact details of some 150 people and a small number of documents assessed to be of low security risk.

Military Aircraft: Training

Mr. Gerald Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Merlin and *(b)* Nimrod crews are fully trained in anti-submarine warfare. [233720]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There are 20 Merlin HM Mk1 and 17 Nimrod MR2 crews fully trained in anti-submarine warfare.

Territorial Army

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required, *(b)* actual and *(c)* fit for task strength of each Territorial Army infantry battalion is. [234316]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table. Figures are as at 1 October 2008 and are rounded to the nearest 10.

Battalion	*Required strength*	*Actual strength*
3rd Battalion Royal Anglian Regt	460	430
7th Battalion The Rifles	460	480
4th Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regt (King's Lancashire and Border)	500	570
3rd Battalion The Princess of Wales's Royal Regt (Queen's and Royal Hampshires)	460	360
3rd Battalion The Royal Welsh	460	380
7th Battalion The Royal Regt of Scotland	530	420
The London Regt	420	320
5th Battalion The Royal Regt of Fusiliers	460	300
4th Battalion The Parachute Regt	460	390
6th Battalion The Royal Regt of Scotland	430	290
4th Battalion The Mercian Regt	670	530
4th Battalion The Yorkshire Regt	530	420
6th Battalion The Rifles	460	380
2nd Battalion The Royal Irish Regt	430	410

Data concerning fit for task personnel is not collected for the Territorial Army and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

OLYMPICS

Expenditure

4. **Mr. Hands:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what her most recent assessment is of the adequacy of the Olympic budget; and if she will make a statement. [233983]

Tessa Jowell: The estimate of public expenditure on the London 2012 games remains within the £9.325 billion package that I announced in March 2007.

I provided further details of the budget in my statement of December 2007; and my progress updates of January and July 2008. My next progress report will be in January 2009.

Costs

5. **Ann Winterton:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what recent estimate she has made of the projected total cost of staging the London 2012 Olympic games. [233984]

Tessa Jowell: As the National Audit Office reported in June 2008, the cost of staging the Games will be met from the budget of the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). LOCOG's budget is some £2 billion. This is intended to be self-financing, with the exception of a contribution from public funds towards the cost of the staging of the Paralympic games, for which there is a provision of £66 million included within the £9.325 billion public sector funding package.

Branding: Local Events

6. **Bob Russell:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with local authorities on the branding of local events in the run-up to the London 2012 Olympic Games. [233985]

Tessa Jowell: The Inspire Mark is a first for any games, and offers core games branding to high-quality projects and programmes delivered by local authorities and other non-commercial bodies, which have been inspired by the London games.

I have worked with the Nations and Regions Group to ensure that this Inspire Mark is available to local events.

36 local Cultural Olympiad projects are already licensed to use the mark, and next year community projects in other themes (e.g. sport) will be able to apply to use the Inspire Mark.

Ambassadors

7. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Minister for the Olympics what plans she has to use past British Olympic medal winners as ambassadors in the run-up to the 2012 Olympic games. [233986]

Tessa Jowell: I intend to work with sports organisations to use current and retired Olympians and Paralympians, not just medal winners, as ambassadors in the run up to the 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games.

These men and women are an inspiration to the nation and are ideal role models for the young people of today.

Wales and the Olympics

Alun Michael: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what assessment she has made of the benefits which the 2012 Olympic games will bring to *(a)* Cardiff and *(b)* Wales. [233987]

Tessa Jowell: Wales stands to gain from the wide range of opportunities created by the London 2012 games.

We are already seeing good progress—I understand that over 90 schools and colleges in Wales took part in Paralympic Handover events; that over 850 businesses have registered on CompeteFor; and that 32 facilities from the region are included in the official Pre-Games Training Camp Guide.

With the Millennium Stadium hosting group stages of the football competition in 2012, Cardiff will be especially well placed to benefit.

Mass Media

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for the Olympics which organisations provided media monitoring services to her Office since its inception; and what the total cost was of each contract over that period. [231327]

Tessa Jowell: I do not have my own contract for media monitoring services. Both the Cabinet Office and the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, who have their own media monitoring contracts with Energy Data Services Ltd., and the Central Office of Information's Media Monitoring Unit supply me with material.

Olympic Games 2012: Consultants

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics when she plans to publish the KPMG review of venues for the London 2012 Olympics. [233684]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The KPMG report with its recommendations is yet to be finalised and presented to the Olympic Board. Plans for publication are therefore still to be determined.

Olympic Games 2012: Finance

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of costs of staging London 2012 shooting events at *(a)* Woolwich and *(b)* Bisley. [233683]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich was selected as the shooting venue for the London 2012 games following feedback from the IOC's review of the Bid Committee's Applicant File (which originally proposed Bisley). Integrating shooting into the main hub of 2012 venues helped form a more 'compact' games in the bid.

KPMG has been commissioned to test and challenge the plans for a number of temporary venues, including Woolwich, to ensure that they represent the best value for money. The KPMG report with its recommendations is yet to be finalised and presented to the Olympic Board.

Olympic Games 2012: Gun Sports

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what reports she has received on discussions between Sport England and the National Rifle Association on hosting shooting events during the London 2012 Olympics at Bisley. [233742]

Tessa Jowell: I have not received any reports on discussions between Sport England and the National Rifle Association on hosting shooting events at Bisley during the period of the London 2012 Olympic games.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what estimate she has made of the *(a)* costs and *(b)* safety issues arising from hosting (i) shotgun, (ii) pistol and (iii) rifle events at Woolwich Army Base during the London 2012 Olympics. [233744]

Tessa Jowell: Since winning the right to host the games, the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) have been developing their operational plans for the venue. In August, KPMG was commissioned to test and challenge the plans for a number of temporary venues, including Woolwich, to ensure that they represent the best value for money.

The KPMG report with its recommendations is yet to be finalised and presented to the Olympic Board. Due to commercial sensitivities, particularly with regards to ensuring that the organising committee is in a position to ensure value for money from suppliers and contractors, details of LOCOG's budget will not be published at this stage.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether she has had discussions with the *(a)* National Rifle Association and *(b)* other shooting bodies on the issue of the location of shooting events during the London 2012 Olympics in the last two months. [233746]

Tessa Jowell: I have not had any discussions with the National Rifle Association or other shooting organisations on the location of the London 2012 shooting events in the last two months. I did, however, meet informally with Olegario Vazquez Raña, President of the International Shooting Sport Federation, during my visit in August to the Beijing 2008 games.

Olympic Games 2012: Northern Ireland

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what discussions she has had with Northern Ireland Executive members on the input of Northern Ireland to the 2012 Olympic Games; and what the outcome of those discussions was. [233491]

Tessa Jowell: I hope to visit Northern Ireland in the new year to engage in these discussions.

By way of background, the Olympic family, through the Nations and Regions Group (NRG), has ongoing discussions with the Northern Ireland Executive at various levels regarding their engagement and involvement in 2012. The work and discussions of the NRG highlight the exciting opportunities and potential benefits to create a lasting legacy in Northern Ireland which has so far included:

26 Olympic and eight Paralympic training facilities in Belfast and other locations, included in the London 2012 Pre-Games Training Camp Guide;

over 500 businesses in Northern Ireland registered on CompeteFor;

£1.31 million from the Legacy Trust to Northern Ireland for a programme which will, in the process of delivery, tackle aspects of personal communication and physical development with elements of dance, gymnastics, music and poetry, theatre and visual arts.

PUBLIC ACCOUNTS COMMISSION

Government Departments: Economic and Monetary Union

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chairman of the Public Accounts Commission whether the National Audit Office has provided guidance to Government departments on their euro changeover preparations and planning. [233542]

Mr. Alan Williams: The National Audit Office has not provided guidance to Government Departments on euro changeover preparations and planning since June 2003. Before that date the NAO had some engagement with a limited number of projects associated with euro changeover preparations.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Armed Forces: USA

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions since 1997 visiting US personnel were *(a)* prosecuted under UK law and *(b)* dealt with under US law for offences committed in the UK; and what information her Department holds on the results of such cases dealt with by the US military authorities. [214526]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Visiting Forces Act 1952 together with the Visiting Forces and International Headquarters (Application of Law) Order 1999 make provision for dealing with offences committed by members of visiting naval, military and air forces from certain listed countries by their own service authorities and service courts rather than by United Kingdom authorities and courts. The Act does not affect the specific legislation under which defendants are prosecuted in the United Kingdom, although it may determine which country's legislation will be applied when an offence is committed.

Information on whether court cases take place under the jurisdiction of the Act is not held by the Ministry of Justice because the information on criminal proceedings contains only the specific statute for the offences under which defendants are prosecuted, not any other statutes governing the court case itself. For example, where a defendant is prosecuted for robbery, an offence under section 8 of the Theft Act 1968, the record held by the Ministry of Justice will list the prosecution as under this Act only. It would not be possible to tell whether the above offence was committed by a member of the visiting US personnel, as circumstances surrounding the case are not reported to the Ministry of Justice. Therefore the Ministry of Justice are unable to provide data on those visiting US personnel who were prosecuted under UK law, those dealt with under US law for offences committed in the UK and the results of these cases.

Asylum

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers on Section 4 support were being provided with luncheon vouchers *(a)* in 2007 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which such data is available. [230826]

Mr. Woolas: Vouchers are issued to those eligible for Section 4 support by Accommodation Providers. They can be in the form of supermarket payment cards, supermarket vouchers or in some cases Luncheon Vouchers. UKBA do not hold central records detailing the provision of Luncheon Vouchers to those in receipt of Section 4 support.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which supermarkets are contracted to accept vouchers used by asylum seekers on Section 4 support in each region of the UK. [230827]

Mr. Woolas: The provision of vouchers has been contracted to Accommodation Providers and this information is not held by the UKBA. The Agency advises Accommodation Providers to purchase vouchers from the nearest local supermarket and other outlets, located within a three-mile radius of the accommodation, where a full range of items can be purchased. It is understood that the Accommodation Providers have arrangements in place with the major supermarket chains.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of the face value of vouchers exchanged by an asylum seeker on Section 4 support is paid to supermarkets. [230828]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not available to the UK Border Agency.

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of *(a)* the annual cost of administering vouchers for asylum seekers on Section 4 support and *(b)* the annual administrative cost of providing support to asylum seekers on Section 4 support in cash using the post office network. [230823]

Mr. Woolas: Failed asylum seekers who are eligible for support to avoid destitution under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999 are provided with accommodation and vouchers for food and other basic essential items. The Act prohibits the provision of cash subsistence.

Vouchers are issued to those eligible for section 4 support by Accommodation Providers. They can be in the form of supermarket payment cards, supermarket vouchers or in some cases Luncheon Vouchers.

The costs of administering the provision of vouchers has been contracted to Accommodation Providers and these costs are included within the unit cost negotiated with each individual Accommodation Provider.

British Nationality

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were granted UK citizenship in *(a)* each year since 1987 and *(b)* each quarter of the last four years for which figures are available. [232782]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The available data to quarter 2 2008 are shown in the following table.

Data for quarter 3 2008 will be published on 19 November 2008 in table 15 of "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary UK Q3 2008".

Data are published both quarterly and annually as National Statistics and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Grants of British citizenship decided in the United Kingdom, 1987 to quarter 2 2008

	Number of persons *Grants of citizenship*[1]
1987	64,875
1988	64,585
1989	117,130
1990	57,270
1991	58,640
1992	42,245
1993	45,795
1994	44,035
1995	40,515
1996	43,070
1997	37,010
1998	53,935
1999	54,900
2000	82,210
2001	90,295
2002	120,125
2003	130,535
2004	148,275
Q1	35,700
Q2	35,210
Q3	39,915
Q4	37,450
2005	161,705
Q1	42,370
Q2	40,325
Q3	39,900
Q4	39,110
2006	154,020
Q1	46,820
Q2	35,870
Q3	34,855
Q4	36,465
2007(P)	164,635
Q1	44,610
Q2	40,370
Q3	43,770
Q4	35,890
2008(P)	
Q1	34,880
Q2	23,445

[1] Data from November 2001 include grants of British citizenship in the Channel Island and Isle of Man.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people of each nationality have been granted UK citizenship since 1987. [232783]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Statistics on persons granted British citizenship by previous nationality are published annually in Home Office National Statistics statistical bulletins.

The requested data can be found in table 4 of "Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom" for the years 1987 to 1990 and in "Persons Granted British Citizenship United Kingdom" for the years 1991 to 2007. These publications may be obtained from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications for UK citizenship were refused on the grounds that the applicant was not of good character in each year since 1997. [232784]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The available data from 2002 to 2007 are shown in the following table.

Data regarding refusals of applications for British citizenship before 2002 are not available.

Data are published annually as National Statistics and are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Refusal of British citizenship on grounds of the applicant not being of good character, 2002 to 2007

	Number of applications refused as not of good character[1]
2002	740
2003	945
2004	1,185
2005	1,665
2006[2]	1,765
2007[3]	1,695

[1] Includes applicants who are considered a threat to national security.

[2] Revised

[3] Provisional

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people renounced UK citizenship in each year since 1987, broken down by new nationality taken. [232785]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The following table shows the number of people who renounced British citizenship in each of the last six years.

	Number of renunciations
2002	1,140
2003	680
2004	670
2005	590
2006	600
2007	585
Total	4,265

Information relating to the nationality acquired or retained as a result of the renunciation and information for the period from 1987 to 2001 could be obtained by the detailed examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

The information has been provided from local management information and is not a National Statistic. As such it should be treated as provisional and therefore subject to change.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the pass rate was of those taking the Knowledge of Life test *(a)* applying for citizenship and *(b)* applying for settlement in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [232781]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The pass rates for candidates taking the Life in the UK test are as follows.

Candidates are asked whether they are sitting the test because they wish to apply for citizenship or settlement. A small proportion of candidates (1.3 per cent.) are unable to state what type of application they will be making to UKBA following their test and these are recorded as other.

Percentage

Pass rates	*October to December 2006*	*January to March 2007*	*April to June 2007*	*July to September 2007*	*October to December 2007*	*January to March 2008*	*April to June 2008*	*July to September 2008*
Citizenship	66.2	70.1	64.8	65.7	68.4	70.2	68.9	66.2
Settlement	—	—	76.3	74.4	76.1	76.6	75.6	74.2
Other	—	—	54.6	49.3	57.3	53.1	53.8	45.3

Note:
Data provided by University for Industry.

Crime: Maps

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effects local crime mapping has had on householders living in the areas where the scheme is in operation with regard to *(a)* insurance premiums and *(b)* other matters. [232990]

Mr. Alan Campbell: All police forces are committed to deliver public-facing crime mapping by December 2008 as part of the Policing Pledge that was announced in the Policing Green Paper 'From the neighbourhood to the national' in July 2008. Five forces currently produce monthly crime maps for the public.

(a) We are unaware of any evidence which suggests that crime mapping has had any effects on insurance premiums.

(b) West Yorkshire police have carried out two small scale market research studies with members of the public which seem to suggest crime maps did not increase the level of fear of crime. Those in higher crime areas tend not to be alarmed by the level of crime depicted on crime maps and those in lower crime areas were often surprised about the low level of crime.

Crimes of Violence: Convictions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many people were convicted of serious violent crime offences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997; [228714]

(2) how many people were convicted of violent crime offences in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* England and Wales in each year since 1997. [228715]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available data have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and give the number of persons found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person in the north-east region and in England and Wales from 1997 to 2006. The court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform cannot provide data for Jarrow constituency or South Tyneside as data are not held at the required level. Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in November 2008.

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person in the north-east region and in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Offence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
	North-east region										
001	Murder	17	16	25	12	16	18	13	13	9	19
002	Attempted murder	3	3	2	7	1	1	6	—	4	1

Number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences of violence against the person in the north-east region and in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3]

	Offence	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
003	Threat or conspiracy to murder	40	50	42	36	23	40	42	46	39	37
004	Manslaughter, etc	34	36	18	24	28	30	26	35	39	18
037	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	—	1	1	—	—	1	1	3	—	—
005	Wounding or other act endangering life	130	127	93	89	99	112	129	115	126	127
006	Endangering railway passenger	4	3	—	1	—	1	2	2	3	4
	More serious offences	236	236	181	169	167	202	219	214	220	206
007	Endangering life at sea	—	—	1	1	—	—	1	—	—	—
008	Other wounding, etc	2,096	2,300	2,290	2,172	2,234	2,306	2,181	2,124	2,356	2,511
011	Cruelty to or neglect of children	21	14	27	28	23	18	23	32	30	38
013	Child abduction	2	5	4	3	3	4	3	7	1	5
	Less serious offences	2,119	2,319	2,322	2,204	2,260	2,328	2,208	2,163	2,387	2,554
	Total indictable violence against the person	2,355	2,555	2,503	2,373	2,427	2,530	2,427	2,377	2,607	2,760
	England and Wales										
001	Murder	275	256	252	264	283	324	277	361	394	372
002	Attempted murder	70	64	70	65	46	65	94	96	66	79
003	Threat or conspiracy to murder	503	488	487	428	383	448	543	576	600	518
004	Manslaughter, etc	541	549	484	505	565	609	561	590	605	513
037	Causing death by aggravated vehicle taking	7	18	7	12	14	10	13	11	22	9
005	Wounding or other act endangering life	1,864	1,775	1,622	1,531	1,595	1,609	1,675	1,897	1,872	1,721
006	Endangering railway passenger	23	23	23	23	20	36	32	23	30	28
	More serious offences	3,283	3,173	2,915	2,825	2,906	3,201	3,195	3,554	3,589	3,240
007	Endangering life at sea	4	—	3	5	1	1	2	3	7	2
008	Other wounding, etc	30,838	33,441	32,239	31,940	31,913	34,003	34,257	34,977	36,768	38,046
011	Cruelty to or neglect of children	390	380	469	448	415	444	494	542	482	488
012	Abandoning child aged under 2 years	1	1	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	2
013	Child abduction	40	51	71	50	59	59	82	72	80	81
014	Procuring illegal abortion	5	3	—	1	—	—	1	1	—	—
015	Concealment of birth	1	1	2	1	1	—	4	—	3	3
	Less serious offences	31,279	33,877	32,785	32,445	32,390	34,507	34,841	35,595	37,340	38,622
	Total indictable violence against the person	34,562	37,050	35,700	35,270	35,296	37,708	38,036	39,149	40,929	41,862

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[1] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The definition of more serious violence is that used in publications on sentencing relating to the years 1997 to 2006.

Crimes of Violence: East of England

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violent crime were recorded in *(a)* Peterborough, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* the East of England in each of the last five years. [232364]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics. We now provide figures for recorded offences of violence against the person and these are given in the following table.

Recorded offences of violence against the person

			Number of offences
Period	*Peterborough*	*Cambridgeshire*	*East of England*
2003-04	5,133	13,663	81,951
2004-05	5,165	13,358	88,968
2005-06	4,156	10,158	82,571
2006-07	4,017	10,421	81,045
2007-08	3,847	10,296	73,727

Crimes of Violence: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violent crime were recorded in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years. [231936]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A number of changes have been made to recorded crime in response to the two reviews of crime statistics. One such change is that the term 'violent crime' is no longer used in connection with the recorded crime statistics. We now provide figures for recorded offences of violence against the person and these are given in the following table.

Figures are provided for the Hertfordshire police force area. Statistics for Hemel Hempstead are not available. Hemel Hempstead comes within the Dacorum Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership area for which figures have been given.

Recorded offences of violence against the person

		Number of offences
Period	*Hertfordshire*	*Dacorum*
2003-04	12,356	1,440
2004-05	16,845	2,073
2005-06	16,206	1,939
2006-07	16,890	2,155
2007-08	13,348	1,617

Criminal Records Bureau: Standards

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1432W, on the Criminal Records Bureau: standards, how many disputed Criminal Records Bureau disclosures were upheld in each of the last five years. [232819]

Meg Hillier: The total number of disclosures where the details released by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) were disputed by the applicant and subsequently upheld is detailed in the following table.

	Total number of upheld disputes	*Total number of disclosures issued*
2003-04	1,739	2,284,688
2004-05	2,265	2,430,937
2005-06	2,669	2,770,265
2006-07	2,797	3,277,957
2007-08	2,785	3,323,251

The CRB enhanced its recording of disputes during 2005-06. Prior to this, the CRB did not hold figures for disputes not upheld.

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 16 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1432W, on the Criminal Records Bureau: standards, what procedures are in place to allow an applicant to dispute the information provided in their Criminal Records Bureau disclosure; what steps she is taking to improve the efficiency of this process; and if she will make a statement. [232820]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates a disputes procedure to allow the recipients of a disclosure to challenge the inclusion and accuracy of information revealed on their disclosure.

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

Applicants can raise a dispute directly with the CRB by contacting the disputes team on 0870 90 90 778 and these contact details are available on the reverse of all disclosures or by visiting the CRB website at:

www.crb.gov.uk

The CRB has rigorous and robust procedures to ensure that it meets its published service standard to deliver 90 per cent. of its part of the disputes process within 21 days. To increase efficiency, the disputes procedure is subject to continuous review.

Angela Watkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what is the average length of time taken to investigate disputed Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check results; and how many CRB check result investigations were outstanding in each of the police force areas at 31 December in each of the last three years; [233036]

(2) how many Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) check results have been challenged as incorrect by the individuals concerned in each of the last three years for which figures are available; and what the average length of time taken by her Department to forward disputed CRB checks for investigation by local police forces is. [233037]

Meg Hillier: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) has issued over 16 million disclosures since inception and operates a disputes procedure to allow the recipients of a disclosure to challenge the inclusion and accuracy of information revealed on their disclosure.

The disputes procedure operates to a published service standard (PSS) which is to resolve 90 per cent. of disputed disclosures within 21 days. This does not include the time taken by police forces to carry out their further investigative work.

Data concerning the average time taken to complete a disputed disclosure by police force area are not a performance target and are not collated by the CRB.

Information released on a disclosure can be disputed for a number of reasons including the inclusion of locally held non-conviction information which the applicant believes to be inaccurate or misleading; situations where an applicant has had their identity stolen; or the inclusion of data which an applicant was unaware would appear on the disclosure.

The number of disputes outstanding in each of the police force areas on 31 December in each of the last three years is not collated by the bureau and is not available.

The total number of disclosures where the details released by the CRB were challenged as incorrect by the applicant in the last three years is detailed in the following table.

	Total number of disputes	*Total number of disclosures issued*
2005-06	2,675	2,770,265
2006-07	3,077	3,277,957
2007-08	4,931	3,323,251

Departmental Compensation

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the 10 highest payments made by her Department were under property compensation cases brought against it over the last 12 months for which figures are available; which of the cases were *(a)* contested and *(b)* uncontested by her Department; and what the nature of each incident was. [216704]

Mr. Woolas: From available information covering the last 12 months there have been no property compensation cases brought against my Department.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many external consultants are contracted to work for her Department. [233518]

Mr. Woolas: The Department procures consultancy services in terms of output rather than numbers of individuals involved, and hence does not hold this information.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what dates in each of the last five years her Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to her Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232732]

Mr. Woolas: Details of dates of those contingent liabilities reported to Parliament by Departmental Minute can be found at Note 32 to the Department's 2007-08 resource accounts (publication HC868) which can be found at the Home Office website:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/documents/resource-accounts-07-08

Publication numbers for earlier resource accounts are as follows:

Financial year	*TSO Publication number*	*Note number*
2006-07	HC1006	32
2005-06	HC124	32
2004-05	HC826	26
2003-04	HC230	26

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department from which companies her Department has purchased goods and services of a total value above £1 million in each of the last three years; and how much was spent on goods from each such company in each such year. [219183]

Mr. Woolas: The companies from which the Department and its Executive agencies has purchased goods, services and works of a total value of above £1 million in each of the last three years is given in the tables placed in the House Library.

The primary values of expenditure recorded by the Department's Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) and other systems are combined values covering goods, services and works. To separate the amount spent on goods only from values representing expenditure on goods, services and works would incur disproportionate cost.

Departmental Responsibilities

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what pilot schemes and projects have been launched by her Department since 1 January 2006; and what the cost to date of each such pilot is. [203249]

Mr. Woolas: Trialling or piloting systems and processes, or their component parts, is normal practice throughout the lifecycle of projects large and small. Records of such trials and pilots are not held centrally. Details of their status and cost could only be obtained at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which projects her Department has commissioned from *(a)* think tanks and *(b)* charities in each of the last two years for which figures are available; what the aim of each project was; which think tank or charity was commissioned; and how much was paid. [221606]

Mr. Woolas: The Department does not hold this information centrally and to obtain the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Deportation

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many UK nationals have been deported from the UK since 24 August 2005 on grounds of unacceptable behaviour. [232656]

Mr. Woolas: It is only possible to pursue deportation action against foreign nationals.

Detention Centres

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have *(a)* escaped or absconded and *(b)* returned or been recaptured after escaping or absconding from each establishment in the immigration detention estate in each of the last five years. [232325]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The number of detainees who have escaped from immigration removal centres has only been collated centrally since 2005.

	Escaped	*Recaptured*
Campsfield House		
2007	29	23
2008 (To date)	7	4
Colnbrook		
2005	1	
Dungavel House		
2006	1	1
Haslar		
2008 (To date)	2	2
Lindholme		
2008 (To date)	1	1
Oakington		
2005	4	—
2006	19	2
2007	63	19
2008 (To date)	24	6
Yarl's Wood		
2007	1	1

Detention Centres: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of operating all immigration removal centres was in each of the last five years. [233311]

Mr. Woolas: It is not possible to answer the question as asked since three of our centres are former prisons i.e. Dover, Haslar and a wing at Lindholme. They are operated by MOJ with UKBA simply paying the top-up fee for running the centre as Immigration Removal Centre.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which immigration removal centre is allocated the largest share of her Department's budget for all such centres. [233312]

Mr. Woolas: This information cannot be given since it is commercial in confidence; revealing details on costs by immigration removal centre will set a precedent, which in turn may jeopardise the tendering process.

Driving Under Influence: Chelmsford

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many offences of *(a)* drug and *(b)* drink driving were recorded in (i) West Chelmsford constituency and (ii) the Chelmsford local authority area in each year since 1997. [232777]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* Offences of driving while unfit through drugs or drink are summary offences and do not feature in the recorded crime statistics collected by the Home Office.

Data on offences of 'Causing death by dangerous or careless driving (including while under the influence of drink or drugs)' have been collected at local authority area level since 2000-01. There was one offence recorded in Chelmsford in 2002-03, one in 2005-06 and four recorded in 2006-07. However, it is not possible to determine from the information held centrally which, if any, of these offences were committed while the offender was under the influence.

Data for West Chelmsford constituency are not available centrally.

Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what factors the Serious and Organised Crime Agency takes into account when stating that a drugs seizure is attributable to its activities. [232890]

Mr. Alan Campbell: There are occasions when either:

(a) SOCA does not have the power to seize drugs but passes information onto another (usually foreign) law enforcement agency to enable the seizure to be effected; or

(b) for operational reasons SOCA wishes not to reveal its involvement in a drugs seizure.

In these instances the SOCA Officer leading the investigation makes a judgment on whether or not the seizure was made principally as a result of SOCA activity and/or the information supplied by SOCA. When reporting these figures, SOCA does not claim that these seizures are attributable solely to its activities.

Drugs: Smuggling

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the capability of UK law enforcement agencies to seize illegal drugs and weapons from vessels in British waters. [232299]

Mr. Woolas: From April 2008, the UK Border Agency (UKBA) took on responsibility for maritime operations which had previously been undertaken by HM Revenue and Customs and were formerly the responsibility of HM Customs and Excise.

UKBA maritime assets, which currently include a fully mobile and flexible cutter fleet, work regularly in support of operations by other law enforcement agencies, to maintain a range of intelligence-led and risk-based controls on all routes of entry to UK, in order to target illicit imports of drugs, weapons and other prohibited and restricted goods.

We are continuously improving our capabilities to seize prohibited and restricted goods from entering the UK and this includes the interception of vessels in British waters. More specifically we intend to review our maritime capability to ensure it supports our objectives to strengthen our border.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what proportion of alleged drug smuggling cases referred to the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) by Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs for investigation in each of the last two years have been investigated by SOCA. [232887]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Under arrangements made when SOCA was established, HM Revenue and Customs notify SOCA of relevant commodity seizures at port within a mutually agreed framework. SOCA undertakes systematic checks on every notification, but only investigates where the size of the seizure, significance of the criminals involved and operational opportunity available are assessed as suitable for further effective action, in line with the priorities of the UK Serious Organised Crime Control Strategy.

A refined framework was introduced on 1 September 2006 in order to align notifications to the UK Control Strategy. SOCA received 74 such notifications relating to drugs seizures from 1 September 2006 to 31 August 2007 and undertook investigations in 16 cases. In the year ending 31 August 2008 SOCA received 99 notifications and undertook investigations in 38 cases.

Entry Clearances

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals have been excluded from the UK since 24 August 2005 on grounds of unacceptable behaviour. [232655]

Mr. Woolas: Since 24 August 2005, 79 foreign nationals have been excluded from the UK on grounds of unacceptable behaviour.

Entry Clearances: Middle East

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 820W, on entry clearances: Middle East, if she will give the names of the Israelis refused entry to the UK in the 12 months to September 2008 on the ground that their exclusion was conducive to the public good. [232584]

Mr. Woolas: In our answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 820W, we referred to the number of Israeli and Palestinian citizens who have been refused entry to the UK at the Border, on the grounds that their admittance would be non-conducive to the public good. It is policy that we do not ordinarily comment on individual cases.

There is a distinction between those persons who have been refused entry at the Border by UK Border Agency officers and those who are the subject of exclusion orders, agreed by the Home Secretary. The Home Secretary recently announced that she has reviewed existing policy on the exclusion from the UK of those individuals who encourage violence or hatred in support of their ideology. In particular, the Home Office will consider, in all future cases, whether it would be in the public interest to disclose that an individual has been excluded, with a presumption to inform the public.

Fireworks: Arrests

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* between 13 and 18, *(b)* between 18 and 25 and *(c)* 25 years and over were arrested for offences related to the misuse of fireworks in each of the last 10 years. [234280]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

Offences relating to the misuse of fireworks are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 extended the list of offences under section 1 of the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 to allow the police to stop and search for prohibited fireworks. From information reported centrally on the number of resultant arrests we are not able to identify specific offences for which an arrest has been made.

Foreign Workers: Domestic Service

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her Department's research and analysis on provisions for overseas domestic workers under the points-based system. [232281]

Mr. Woolas: The findings of research are normally published if they meet quality standards and do not present issues of security, operational effectiveness or confidentiality. A publication date will be set once the final report is agreed.

Genetics: Databases

Lynne Featherstone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged *(a)* under 10, *(b)* 10 to 17, *(c)* 18 to 20 and *(d)* 21 and over in each ethnic appearance category were registered on the national DNA database in each of the last five years; and how many of those had been (i) arrested but had no further action taken against them, (ii) charged but later acquitted, (iii) charged where such charges were subsequently dropped and (iv) given a reprimand of final warning in each of those years. [212373]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The function of the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is to match DNA profiles taken from crime scenes with those taken from individuals. It does not contain any information on whether those on it have been arrested, charged or given a reprimand or final warning.

Information is available on the number of those whose profiles have been added to the NDNAD by English and Welsh police forces, as at 16 July 2008, broken down by ethnic appearance category and the age groups requested, as given in Table 1. Age is defined as the person's age at the time DNA was taken from them, not their current age. This data could only be further broken down to show which profiles were added in each of the last five years at disproportionate cost.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion.

This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates.

Ethnic appearance is based on the judgement of the police officer taking the sample as to which of six broad ethnic appearance categories the person is considered to belong. 'Unknown' means that no ethnic appearance information was recorded by the officer taking the sample.

Table 1

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3per cent estimated replication rate*
Unknown	Under 10	19	16
	10-17	53,274	46,189
	18-20	34,605	30,003
	21 and over	210,113	182,168
	Unknown age on load	880	763
Total Unknown		298,891	259,138 6
Black	Under 10	7	
	10-17	81,748	70,876
	18-20	46,823	40,596
	21 and over	240,017	208,095
	Unknown age on load	6,747	5,850
Total Black		375,342	325,422
Middle Eastern	Under 10	2	2
	10-17	4,105	3,559
	18-20	4,383	3,800
	21 and over	27,077	23,476
	Unknown age on load	295	256
Total Middle Eastern		35,862	31,092
Asian	Under 10	6	5
	10-17	43,998	38,146
	18-20	38,730	33,579
	21 and over	176,783	153,271
	Unknown age on load	2,234	1,937
Total Asian		261,751	226,938
White Southern European	Under 10	11	10
	10-17	15,290	13,256
	18-20	10,850	9,407
	21 and over	63,783	55,300
	Unknown age on load	1,169	1,014
Total White Southern European		91,103	78,986
Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian	Under 10	0	0
	10-17	2,929	2,539

Table 1

Ethnic appearance	*Age range*	*Number of profiles*	*Number of individuals using 13.3per cent estimated replication rate*
	18-20	3,140	2,722
	21 and over	24,139	20,929
	Unknown age on load	127	110
Total Chinese, Japanese or SE Asian		30,335	26,300
White North European	Under 10	54	47
	10-17	856,617	742,687
	18-20	514,545	446,111
	21 and over	2,372,906	2,057,310
	Unknown age on load	56,063	48,607
Total White North European		3,800,185	3,294,760

Andrew Stunell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many individuals within the Greater Manchester Police Authority aged *(a)* under 13, *(b)* between 13 and 15, *(c)* between 16 and 18 and *(d)* between 19 and 21 years old have a sample on the national DNA database. [232303]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information held on the National DNA Database (NDNAD) is recorded on the basis of the police force which took the DNA sample. The address of the person sampled is not recorded. Thus, the figures for the Greater Manchester Police (GMP) Authority area include people from outside the GMP Authority area who were arrested and sampled by GMP; and exclude people from the GMP area who were arrested and sampled by police forces elsewhere.

The table gives the number of subject profiles held on the NDNAD taken by GMP for the age ranges requested, as at 30 October 2008. The figures given are for current ages, not the age on the date the sample was taken.

The number of profiles is not the same as the number of individuals. This is because a number of subject profiles on the NDNAD are replicates, that is, a profile for a person has been loaded to the NDNAD on more than one occasion. This may arise for a number of reasons, such as a person giving a different name on different occasions they are arrested, or because of upgrading of profiles from the SGM to the SGM Plus profiling system. It is estimated that 13.3 per cent. of the subject profiles held on the entire NDNAD are replicates.

However, this rate may vary between police forces, so figures for the number of individuals are not given for particular forces.

Current age	*Total subject sample profiles*
Under 13	878
13 to 15	7,515
16 to 18	19,586
19 to 21	26,621

Identity and Passport Service

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on the Identity and Passport Service, how much was paid out in compensation by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five years. [232350]

Meg Hillier: Compensation payments made to the public by the Identity and Passport Service in each of the last five financial years are as follows:

	£
2003-04	79,000
2004-05	145,000
2005-06	129,000
2006-07	123,000
2007-08	77,000

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1539W, on the Identity and Passport Service, what account she took of the passports stolen on 28 July in formulating the answer; and if she will make a statement. [232351]

Meg Hillier: The blank passports stolen on 28 July in Manchester were bound for RAF Northolt for onward delivery to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) overseas consular posts via diplomatic bag. The transport arrangements are the responsibility of the FCO. The Identity and Passport Service were made immediately aware of the loss and have been working closely with FCO on preventative action and the ongoing police investigation.

A joint letter was sent on 1 August to the Chairmen of the Home and Foreign Affairs Select Committees by the permanent secretaries of the FCO and the Home Office explaining the measures FCO are putting in place to increase security for the transport of passports to overseas posts.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many on-the-spot fines have been imposed on employers using illegal immigrant labour since February 2008; and how many illegal immigrants have been removed from the UK as a result of operations leading to such fines. [231586]

Mr. Woolas: To date 1,012 notices of liability for a civil penalty have been issued since the implementation of the new civil penalties regime in February 2008. Figures provided from the database do not constitute part of National Statistics and should be treated as provisional as they are subject to change.

The United Kingdom (UK) Border Agency does not hold data in the format requested on those encountered working illegally that have been removed from the UK. Published information on removals is provided in the quarterly asylum statistics. The most recent figures can be accessed at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/asylumq407.pdf

and are also available from the Library of the House.

Immigration

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration is made of the status of a marriage of a foreign national to a British national under Sharia law completed outside the UK in dealing with an application for residency. [231862]

Mr. Woolas: Those applying for leave to enter or remain in the UK on the basis of their marriage to a British national must satisfy the UK Border Agency that they are validly married to their sponsor. In order for a marriage contracted overseas to be valid in the United Kingdom it must meet three criteria:

1. The type of marriage must be one recognised in the country in which it took place;

2. The marriage must have been properly executed so as to satisfy the requirements of the law of the country in which it took place; and

3. There must have been nothing in the law of either party's domicile that restricted his or her freedom to enter into the marriage.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effect the divorce of a foreign national from a British national under Sharia law would have on an individual's residency status. [231899]

Mr. Woolas: The only valid way of divorcing in the United Kingdom and Islands is by obtaining, on application, a decree from a civil court. The recognition of overseas divorces is considered under the provisions of the current legislation—the Family Law Act 1986—which came into force on 5 April 1988.

Immigration: Criminal Records

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W, on immigration: criminal records, what the policy is of the Government on the grant of indefinite leave to remain under the legacy exercise to individuals with criminal convictions; where *(a)* on the website referred to and *(b)* elsewhere the policy is explained; and for what reason her Answer did not set out the Government's policy. [233093]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The Case Resolution Directorate applies a range of existing UK Border Agency policies when considering cases within the legacy. All cases within the legacy are checked for criminality before any decision is made. Deportation of individuals with criminality is considered in line with Chapters 11 to 15 of the published Enforcement Instructions and Guidance on the UK Border Agency's website at:

http://www.bia.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/enforcement/oemsectionb/

If there is criminality, but deportation is not pursued and there are no outstanding applications or asylum or human rights issues, consideration will be given to criminal records in line with the extenuating circumstances as described in Chapter 53 of the published Enforcement Instructions and Guidance on the UK Border Agency's website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk/ind/manuals/enforcementguidance/Resources/Detention_and_Removals/Guidance/Chapter53.doc

Copies of the chapters referred to will be placed in the House Library.

Immigration: Detainees

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the longest period of time that an individual has been detained in an immigration removal centre is. [233313]

Mr. Woolas: Information of this kind is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Although under UK immigration law there are no fixed limits on the length of detention, there is a requirement to keep it to the minimum period necessary for the purpose for which it was authorised in line with article 5 of the European Convention on Human Rights and associated jurisprudence.

National Statistics on detention are published annually and quarterly in the Home Office Statistical Bulletin Control of Immigration which is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average length of time an individual was detained in an immigration removal centre was in each of the last three years. [233332]

Mr. Woolas: The information requested is not available for the time period requested and could be obtained only through the examination of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Following a change in the computer system in which information is collected; statistics on all persons recorded as leaving detention in the UK solely under Immigration Act powers by length of detention are not available after September 2006. Information up to that date for each year is available from the Library of the House and in Table 9.4 of each year's Asylum Statistics United Kingdom publication published each August:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf

Immigration: Educational Institutions

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* found guilty of offences relating to breaches of immigration law by educational institutions in each year since 1997, broken down by offence. [233324]

Maria Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

The number of 'other' offenders (i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.) proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts, for all immigration offences in England and Wales, from 1997 to 2006 are given in the tables. Data for 2007 will be available in late November 2008.

The Court Proceedings Database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform does not separately identify educational institutions from other public bodies or companies within the 'other' offender category.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of 'other' defendants' proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for all immigration offences[1], England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

		Proceeded against									
Offence description	*Principal Statute(s)*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Other forgery or copying false instrument. Marking etc document calculated to deceive.	Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 Secs 1,2. Mental Health Act 1983 Sec 126(2). Post Office (Protection) Act 1884 Sec 11 (in Part)	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	2	—	—
Using a false instrument or a copy of a false instrument.	Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 Secs 3,4. Post Office (Protection) Act 1884 Sec 11 (in Part).	2	1	3	2	1	—	1	1	1	—
Being unable to produce an immigration document at a leave or asylum interview in respect of himself	Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.2(1)(9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—
Employing person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16.	Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 S.8 as amended by Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.6.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Employing a person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16.	Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 S.8.	—	—	1	2	—	—	—	2	3	—
Total		2	1	4	4	1	—	2	5	5	1

		Found guilty									
Offence description	*Principal Statute(s)*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Other forgery or copying false instrument. Marking etc document calculated to deceive.	Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 Secs 1,2. Mental Health Act 1983 Sec 126(2). Post Office (Protection) Act 1884 Sec 11 (in Part).	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
Using a false instrument or a copy of a false instrument.	Forgery and Counterfeiting Act 1981 Secs 3,4. Post Office (Protection) Act 1884 Sec 11 (in Part).	—	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	1	—
Being unable to produce an immigration document at a leave or asylum interview in respect of himself	Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.2(1)(9)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

		Found guilty									
Offence description	*Principal Statute(s)*	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Employing person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16.	Asylum and Immigration Act 1999 S.8 as amended by Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004 S.6.	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Employing a person subject to immigration control who has attained the age of 16.	Asylum and Immigration Act 1996 S.8	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	2	2	—
Total		—	—	2	3	1	—	1	2	3	—

[1] 'Other' offenders, i.e. companies, public bodies, etc.

[2] Only those immigration offences with data for the period given have been included in the table.

[3] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for Billericay of 11 July and 17 September 2008 on a constituent, Ms Agnes Mpofu. [231262]

Mr. Woolas: Lin Homer, Chief Executive of the UK Border Agency, wrote to the hon. Member on 29 October 2008 and an amended reply by Jonathan Sedgwick, Deputy Chief Executive was sent on 3 November 2008.

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when her Department plans to respond to the hon. Member for Billericay's letters of 18 August and 24 September 2008 on her constituent Mrs Wang Youmei He. [233181]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: The letters were responded to on 26 September 2008.

National DNA Database

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the written statement of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 74WS, on the National DNA Database, when the Government plan to respond to the recommendations of the first annual report of the ethics group on the operation and practice of the National DNA Database. [233217]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The National DNA Database Strategy Board and the National Policing Improvement Agency are considering the recommendations of the Ethics Group Annual Report and will advise Ministers on the issues raised in the new year. The Government will publish its response early next year.

Overseas Students: Languages

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspections of institutions teaching English as a second language the UK Border Agency and its predecessors conducted in each of the last three years; and if she will make a statement. [232215]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The UK Border Agency does not inspect specific courses within institutions in the way that Ofsted, for example, inspects schools and so does not have any figures for such inspections.

All colleges that want to recruit overseas students need to appear on the Department for Innovation, University and Skills (DIUS) register of education and training providers.

The UK Border Agency will only grant student visas to people intending to study at an institution on the register.

Passports: Interviews

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants have been refused a passport as a result of decisions consequent on an interview carried out at a passport interview centre. [231584]

Meg Hillier: Identity interviews were added to the passport process mainly to deter fraud by increasing the difficulties for impostors seeking to obtain passports in other people's identities. The interviews therefore also act as a protection for British citizens against one form of identity theft.

Extensive checks are carried out prior to interview and in a number of cases this will uncover issues which will mean that the passport application is withdrawn or refused. At the present time, no applicants have been refused a passport as a result of an interview at a passport interview office.

Police Cautions

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many criminal cautions were issued between September 2007 and September 2008. [231701]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office collects data on the number of recorded offences detected by means of a caution. The latest data cover the financial year 2007-08 and show that there were 358,016 offences detected by means of a caution.

Statistics on the number of offenders who receive a caution are held by the Ministry of Justice.

Police Patrolling: Cambridgeshire

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average were spent on patrol by police officers in *(a)* Peterborough and *(b)* Cambridgeshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [232365]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available centrally.

Police Patrolling: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many hours on average were spent on patrol by police officers in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire in the latest period for which figures are available. [232940]

Mr. Coaker: The information is not available centrally.

Police: Body Searches

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidelines are given to the police about the use of strip searches and the account to be taken of *(a)* age, *(b)* gender, *(c)* seriousness of the alleged offence and *(d)* the risk of subsequent self harm when deciding to conduct a strip search. [231742]

Mr. Coaker *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: A strip search is defined by the Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 (PACE) and the PACE codes of practice as a search which involves the removal of more than an outer coat, jacket or gloves. The PACE codes of practice contain guidance on the strip searching of persons as part of a stop and search (code A) and at the police station (code C).

The Act and codes set out a range of safeguards to ensure that strip searches are carried out with courtesy, consideration and respect and with proper regard to the sensitivity and vulnerability of, and the risks posed to, the person being searched.

These include requirements that:

Every reasonable effort must be made to minimise embarrassment.

Strip searches must be conducted out of view of anyone whose presence is not necessary.

Strip searches are to be conducted by an officer of the same sex and no one of the opposite sex is to be present unless the person searched specifically requests it.

A strip search under a stop and search power involving exposure of intimate parts of the body is only to be carried out at a nearby police station or other nearby location (but not a police vehicle).

When a strip search of a detainee at a police station involves the exposure of intimate parts of the body, then unless there is a risk of serious harm, at least two people in addition to the detainee are to be present. If the detainee is a juvenile or mentally vulnerable, one person present must be the appropriate adult unless, in the case of a juvenile, the individual does not wish them to be present and the adult agrees.

The guidance "Safer Detention & Handling of Persons in Police Custody" published in 2006 by the Home Office, ACPO and Centrex states that officers need to be properly trained to take account of the risks that might arise when searches are carried out.

The PACE codes of practice and the guidance on the "Safer Detention & Handling of Persons in Police Custody" can be accessed on the Home Office web pages.

Proceeds of Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the value is of assets recovered by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency since its establishment. [232894]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Serious Organised Crime Agency has obtained asset recovery orders during the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08 to the following values:

£ million

	(a) Cash forfeiture order obtained	*(b) confiscation order obtained*
2006-07	2.3	14.5
2007-08	2.9	11.6
Total	5.2	26.1

Figures for the financial year 2008-09 are still subject to internal validation. The figures will be published at the end of financial year 2008-09.

SOCA has no responsibility for the enforcement of confiscation orders.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will make it her policy to publish information on the value of assets seized by the Serious and Organised Crime Agency in the same format as that previously published by the Assets Recovery Agency. [232898]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information on the application of civil recovery and taxation powers under the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 will be published by the Serious Organised Crime Agency as part of its annual report. The presentation of this data will be aligned with SOCA's reporting on its existing asset recovery powers and as such will not make use of older formats. SOCA has not inherited all of the Asset Recovery Agency's asset recovery powers and, unlike ARA, SOCA will not be the sole agency exercising civil recovery powers. Any like-for-like comparisons with ARA's past achievements will therefore be inhibited.

Rape

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which police forces have established specialist rape investigation units; and what assessment she has made of their effectiveness in *(a)* reducing the number of rapes and *(b)* arresting suspected perpetrators of rape. [229977]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Dedicated rape investigation teams operate in Avon and Somerset, Bedfordshire, Derbyshire, Hampshire, Hertfordshire, Leicestershire, The Metropolitan Police Service, North Wales, Surrey, Thames Valley and West Yorkshire.

The Home Office is currently funding and monitoring a pilot of the dedicated team approach in Hampshire in order to explore further its benefits. Although no wider national assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the specialist units, police forces have indicated that they have more effectively addressed the needs of victims during the investigation process.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Standards

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the performance of the Serious and Organised Crime Agency against its targets. [232895]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Home Office Ministers have regular meetings with the chair and the Director General of the Serious Organised Crime Agency.

The Serious Organised Crime Agency provides the Department with a performance report quarterly.

The Serious Organised Crime and Police Act 2005 requires that,

> "As soon as possible after the end of each financial year SOCA must issue a report on the exercise of its functions during that year (an "annual report"). The annual report must include an assessment of the extent to which the annual plan for that year under section 6 has been carried out."

The SOCA Annual Report 2007-08 was published on 15 May 2008 and a copy was placed in the House Library.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which of the recommendations of the National Audit Office report on the Assets Recovery Agency (ARA), HC (2006-07) 253, the Serious and Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) has implemented following the transfer to SOCA of the powers and functions of the ARA. [232897]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The recommendations of the National Audit Office report on the Assets Recovery Agency were reinforced and developed by subsequent recommendations in the Public Accounts Committee's Fiftieth Report of Session 2006-07 (HC 391). The Serious Organised Crime Agency has taken forward relevant aspects of the NAO and PAC recommendations jointly. SOCA has implemented Recommendations *(a)* to *(d)* of the NAO report. Specifically:

(a) SOCA has single points of contact established with key civil recovery referral partners and also has a significant network of liaison officers to facilitate working with partner agencies.

(b) SOCA has case management systems in place which contain all relevant management information.

(c) SOCA has formal case review processes in place for all its cases.

(d) Receivers' rates are negotiated and capped under the terms of a multi-agency Framework Agreement. SOCA monitors and maintains records relating to the performance of receivers and scrutinises all individual invoices to determine the reasonableness of their claims.

The remaining recommendations *(e)* and *(f)* of the NAO report relate to ARA functions that were transferred to the National Policing Improvement Agency.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* casual staff have been employed in administrative roles by the UK Border Agency and its predecessors in each of the last five years; and at what cost. [227495]

Mr. Woolas: The number of *(a)* full-time, (permanent), and *(b)* non permanent workers deployed in administrative roles in the UK Border Agency in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The non-permanent category includes both casual staff and agency workers.

Total pay cost figures for each financial year

£000

	2007-08	2006-07	2005-06	2004-05
	64,584	*68,446*	*69,318*	*
Number of full time equivalents				
Permanent staff	1,440	1,660	1,782	1,993
Non-permanent workers	64	119	74	74
Total number of administrative roles	1,504	1,779	1,856	2,068

* The figures for these costs were not given separate definitions in the previous accounting system to Adelphi and figures are not therefore available before 2005.

Notes:

1. The records for deployment in administrative roles have not been broken down further into type of non-permanent worker and casual staff cannot therefore be identified.
2. The figures are for full-time equivalent staff rounded to the nearest whole figure.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 162680, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 6 November 2007, on English language requirements for non-UK nationals. [206266]

Mr. Woolas: My predecessor replied to the hon. Member on 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1562W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to answer question 188653, on indefinite leave to remain, tabled by the hon. Member for Hertsmere on 20 February 2008. [207630]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Member on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 514W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 177335, tabled on 7 January 2008, on the housing of persons granted leave to remain in the UK under the legacy exercise. [226977]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Member on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 436W.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects to answer question 177352, tabled on 7 January 2008, on the cost of the legacy exercise. [226979]

Mr. Woolas: I replied to the hon. Member on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 444W.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Swimming: Bassetlaw

10. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what his Department is doing to support free swimming in Bassetlaw. [233998]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Bassetlaw district council has been offered £36,307 to provide free swimming to those aged 60 or over and £54,251 to provide free swimming to those aged 16 or under in each of 2009-10 and 2010-11. The council has also been offered a one-off capital reward payment of £25,355 for this year.

World Cup 2018

11. **Mr. Hollobone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in his discussions with the Football Association on its bid for the 2018 Football World Cup; and if he will make a statement. [233999]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government, from the Prime Minister down, wholeheartedly support the FA's bid for the 2018 World Cup. My Department is working closely with the FA to deliver a bid of the highest quality, and last week I attended the initial meeting of the bid company board.

Free Swimming

13. **Joan Ryan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress has been made in implementing the free swimming initiative; and if he will make a statement. [234001]

Andy Burnham: The closing date for local authorities to confirm their participation in all elements of the Free Swimming Programme has now passed. We are collating responses and I will be issuing a statement shortly.

Licensing Regime

14. **Tom Brake:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effects of the Licensing Act 2003 on sports clubs. [234003]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Independent Licensing Fees Review Panel reported in 2006.

It found no evidence that any amateur sports club had closed because of licensing fees, and did not recommend a discount for sports clubs.

16. **Mr. Steen:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will bring forward proposals to amend the licensing regime to enable alcoholic refreshments to be sold to the audience at amateur dramatic performances for more than three consecutive days. [234006]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Both the retail of alcohol and the performance of plays can now be authorised by a single premises licence, which can apply for more than three consecutive days. The activities may also be authorised by a Temporary Event Notice ("TEN") which is limited to events of up to 96 hours or four days in duration so long as other limits applying to the holder and the premises have been observed.

We have no plans to relax the restrictions on TEN's which are there as an important safeguard for local residents for what is a light touch regime for temporary licensable activities.

Broadcasting Standards

15. **Mr. Robathan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport with reference to the 2006 agreement between the Secretary of State and the BBC, what recent discussions he has had with the BBC on broadcasting standards. [234005]

Andy Burnham: I regularly meet both Sir Michael Lyons and Mark Thompson to discuss a range of issues.

Elite Athletics: Funding

17. **Mr. Evennett:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of funding arrangements for elite athletes; and if he will make a statement. [234007]

Andy Burnham: Exchequer and lottery funding for elite athletes is concentrated on preparing for the Olympic and Paralympic games. Funding for the Beijing cycle was £265 million, compared with £85 million for Athens. The Beijing results were outstanding and Exchequer and lottery investment for London will increase to over £300 million.

Museums

Anne Snelgrove: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what the most recent visitor figures are for national museums. [233996]

Barbara Follett: The most recent figures available show that there were a record 40 million visits to national museums in 2007-08. This represents a 72 per cent. increase in visits since the introduction of free admission in 2001-02, and equates to an additional 40 million visits to national museums over the last six years.

Digital Switchover

Alun Michael: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what progress is being made to ensure that audio description is built into the core receiver requirements for the digital switchover help scheme. [234000]

Andy Burnham: Audio description is a mandatory part of the core receiver requirements. My Department has recently consulted on proposals to introduce a requirement for one button access to audio description from the remote control handset. This change is expected to come into force shortly.

Art Works: Theft

Mr. Vaizey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans he has to bring forward legislation to enable the restitution of artwork spoliated by Nazi Germany and now in the national collections. [233686]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The Government intend to bring forward legislation to allow national museums to return works of art lost during the Nazi era and continues to seek a legislative opportunity for doing so.

British Film Institute

Stephen Pound: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the work of the British Film Institute; and if he will make a statement. [234004]

Barbara Follett: I routinely meet with the British Film Institute (BFI) and the UK Film Council to discuss the wide range of activities undertaken by the BFI and any important issues arising.

I also have regular meetings with and correspondence from people across the film industry and the work of the BFI comes up from time to time.

The BFI does an outstanding job in championing the diversity of film culture in the UK. I would like to offer my congratulations to them for the enormously successful 52^{nd} London Film festival, featuring many important new films including Terence Davies's Of Time and the City.

British Library: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has provided to the British Library in each of the last five years. [233822]

Barbara Follett: DCMS grant in aid funding for the British Library was as follows:

British Library funding, incorporating resource and capital grant in aid

	£ million
2006-07	104.4
2005-06	102.6
2004-05	100.6
2003-04	90.1
2002-03	86.1

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East (James Duddridge) of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 36-37W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233388]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport refurbished its office at 2-4 Cockspur Street, London at a cost of £8,690,690.90.

The Royal Parks refurbished The Magazine in Kensington Gardens at a cost of £74,000.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232738]

Andy Burnham: In each of the past five years, the Department informed the House of contingent liabilities relating to the Department in the notes to its resource accounts which were laid on 17 July 2008, 16 July 2007, 24 July 2006, 19 October 2005 and 15 September 2004. This information includes liabilities not required to be reported directly to Parliament.

Under the National Heritage Act 1980, section 16A, the Department has also reported to Parliament by departmental minute on the total contingent liability of the Government Indemnity Scheme on 11 June 2003, 4 December 2003, 10 June 2004, 30 November 2004, 26 January 2006, 18 October 2005, 8 June 2006, 6 December 2006, 23 May 2007, 27 November 2007, and 4 June 2008.

The Department does not report the contingent liabilities of non-departmental public bodies. The non-departmental public bodies report their contingent liabilities to Parliament in their own accounts.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230959]

Andy Burnham: Since my appointment, the department has provided media training.

Departmental Visits Abroad

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many official visits abroad he has made in the last 12 months; and what the costs were of such visits. [233884]

Andy Burnham: All travel by DCMS Ministers when travelling on official business is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers. Since 1999 the Government have published an annual list of all visits overseas undertaken by Cabinet Ministers costing £500 or more during each financial year, this information includes accommodation costs. Copies are available in the Libraries of both Houses.

Design: Teachers

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking in conjunction with the Design Alliance to encourage continuing professional development among design teachers in schools and colleges. [234032]

Barbara Follett: The Government indicated their support for the Design Skills Alliance in Creative Britain, published in February 2008. A bid for funds has been put to DCMS's Creative Economy Programme Board and is currently being considered by Ministers.

Government Art Collection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many pieces from the Government Art Collection have gone missing in the last 12 months. [233963]

Barbara Follett: 8 Government Art Collection works of art are currently registered as missing for the period 1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund has given to (i) the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, (ii) Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and (iii) the Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in the last 24 months. [233270]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: My Department has not directly funded the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support or the Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in the last 24 months.

The Big Lottery Fund have advised that it has made four awards worth £768,536 to the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations in the last 24 months but has not funded Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support or the Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium in this period.

Horse Racing: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much was received by the horse racing industry from the statutory levy payment by bookmakers in the last 12 months; how much is expected to be received in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [234058]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Payments received from bookmakers (inclusive of the Tote) in respect of the 46th Levy Scheme (April 2007 to March 2008) totalled £115.5 million. The Horserace Betting Levy Board's best estimate for receipts in respect of the 47th Levy Scheme (April 2008 to March 2009) is £99.2 million. A figure for total receipts in the 12 months to November 2008 is not available, nor is it possible to estimate receipts in the 12 months from November 2008 as neither the Levy Board nor my Department holds such data.

We welcome the news that the 48th Horserace Betting Levy Scheme has been agreed without the need for Government determination. This is a tribute both to the independent members of the board for their perseverance in brokering an acceptable agreement, and to the racing and bookmaking industries for their flexibility in reaching constructive solutions to some very difficult issues.

Liverpool

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times he has visited Liverpool during its period as European Capital of Culture. [233642]

Andy Burnham: Since 25 January 2008, I have visited Liverpool 18 times in an official capacity.

National Lottery: Cycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much funding the Big Lottery Fund has given to *(a)* the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign and *(b)* Action for Sustainable Living in the last 24 months. [233245]

Barbara Follett: The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have advised that it has not funded either the Greater Manchester Cycling Campaign or Action for Sustainable Living in the last 24 months.

However, BIG have advised that the Awards for All programme has made one award worth £5,200 to Action For Sustainable Living in the last 24 months.

Public Libraries: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much has been spent on public libraries in each London borough in each of the last 10 years. [233886]

Barbara Follett: The amount of money spent on libraries—net expenditure (actual amount excluding capital charges)—in each London borough is published in the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy (CIPFA) Public Library Statistics, copies of which are available in the House Library.

Stonehenge

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport (1) how much income English Heritage has received from running Stonehenge in each year since it took responsibility for the site; and if he will make a statement; [233552]

(2) what costs have been incurred by English Heritage in running Stonehenge in each year since it took over responsibility for the site; and if he will make a statement. [233553]

Barbara Follett: Information provided by English Heritage on income received, and costs incurred, is set out in the following table. English Heritage has managed Stonehenge since 1984, but income and expenditure information prior to 1996-97 could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Earned income, excluding rents receivable (£)*	*Expenditure, excluding leased maintenance costs (£)*
1996-97	3,156,883	1,567,402
1997-98	3,310,350	1,535,529
1998-99	3,755,389	1,672,622
1999-2000	4,036,315	1,754,066
2000-01	3,827,769	2,441,727
2001-02	3,554,282	1,865,653
2002-03	3,854,550	2,060,331
2003-04	4,260,664	2,130,311
2004-05	4,669,575	1,983,019
2005-06	4,794,121	2,178,208

Financial year	*Earned income, excluding rents receivable (£)*	*Expenditure, excluding leased maintenance costs (£)*
2006-07	5,395,202	2,329,231
2007-08	5,682,667	2,196,530

Lembit Öpik: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on consultancy fees relating to improvement schemes for the Stonehenge site in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [233554]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has not spent any money on consultancy fees relating to improvement schemes for the Stonehenge site in the last five years. English Heritage has managed the site on behalf of the state since 1984 and the amount it has spent on consultancy fees in each of the last five years are set out in the following table.

	Spend on consultancy fees (£)
2003-04	934,335
2004-05	464,711
2005-06	224,211
2006-07	154,847
2007-08	15,820

Swimming Pools: Elderly

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether free swimming for over 60 year olds under his proposed scheme may only take place in pools owned by local authorities. [233141]

Andy Burnham: Free swimming offered through the Government's Free Swimming Programme may only take place in pools owned by local authorities.

Television

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport if he will place in the Library the guidance given to broadcasters on determining the public interest in preparing and broadcasting a programme based on undercover filming; and if he will make a statement. [233046]

Andy Burnham: The matter raised is the responsibility of the Office of Communications (Ofcom), as independent regulator for the communications sector. Accordingly, I have asked the Chief Executive of Ofcom to reply directly to the hon. Member. Copies of the Chief Executive's letter will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Tourism: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much money from his Department is being provided to Visit Wales in 2008-09. [232213]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Funding for Visit Wales is provided by the Welsh Assembly Government. The core budget for Visit Wales from the Welsh Assembly Government in the financial year 2007-08 was £12.656 million. This was boosted to £16.156 million by EU funding of £3.5 million.

Figures for 2008-2009 are not yet available.

Tourism: Greater London

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to promote London as a tourist destination over the last 12 months. [233839]

Barbara Follett: My Department has provided £1.9 million in the last year to the Greater London authority, in support of its tourism duties.

London features widely in VisitBritain's marketing campaigns to promote Britain overseas and England to the British, including print literature and web content on both visitbritain.com and enjoyengland.com. VisitBritain also co-funds, with Visit London, the Britain and London Visitor Centre (BLVC) in Regent street. A monthly London Planner, produced in partnership with VisitBritain and Visit London, is available free at the BLVC and other tourist information centres.

The British Tourism Framework Review, which is due to report shortly, is expected to offer further comment on the future promotion of London domestically and internationally.

Visit England: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much public funding is being provided to Visit England in 2008-09. [231637]

Barbara Follett *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* DCMS does not provide direct funding to Visit England. For 2008-09, the amount of funding provided by VisitBritain for the direct marketing of England both domestically and internationally (excluding services shared with VisitBritain) is £8.462 million.

Youth Organisations

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the average level of funding provided to local youth councils by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Big Lottery Fund in the latest period for which figures are available. [233285]

Barbara Follett: My Department has not directly provided funding to local youth councils for the period in which latest figures are available.

The Big Lottery Fund (BIG) have advised that in the financial year 2007-08 three awards with a total value of £76,814 were made to local youth councils through BIG programmes and the Awards For All programme.

PRIME MINISTER

10 Downing Street

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W, on 10 Downing Street: shops, (1) if he will place in the Library a copy of the merchandise and price list of the gift shop; [233445]

(2) who the suppliers are of the gifts sold in the gift shop. [233446]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 881W.

Alan Greenspan

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister whether Alan Greenspan is an adviser to him. [233380]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 17 September 2007. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page13216

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Baroness Ashton

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister how much was paid as a ministerial severance payment to Baroness Ashton on her appointment as a European Commissioner. [233379]

The Prime Minister: Severance pay is payable in accordance with section 4 of the Ministerial and other Pensions and Salaries Act 1991.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Prime Minister what the budgeted *(a)* set-up costs and *(b)* yearly running costs are for the Number 10TV channel; and what the cost was of the recent Downing Street website redesign. [235000]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for Fareham (Mr. Hoban) on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2026W.

Guantanamo Bay

Sarah Teather: To ask the Prime Minister if he will make representations to the American President-elect to honour his commitment to close Guantánamo Bay. [234681]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Walsall, North (Mr. Winnick) at Prime Minister's Questions on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 251.

Gulf States: Nuclear Power

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Prime Minister what matters relating to nuclear power development were discussed during his recent visit to the Gulf States. [234418]

The Prime Minister: I discussed a range of issues on my recent trip to the Gulf States. I refer the hon. Member to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 3 November 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page17353

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Iceland: Foreign Relations

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Prime Minister what requests for *(a)* assistance and *(b)* support for Iceland, its banks and its currency were made to him by Icelandic Prime Minister Geir Haarde during their meeting on 24 April; and what steps he took as a result. [233588]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to the press briefing given by my spokesman on 24 April 2008. A transcript of this is available on the No. 10 website

http://www.number10.gov.uk/Page15344

and a copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

Members' Interests

Adam Price: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on Ministers' interests, whether all Ministers have provided the relevant information to their Permanent Secretaries. [234378]

The Prime Minister: I have nothing further to add to the answer I gave the hon. Member on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W.

Ministerial Appointments

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister (1) when the hon. Member for Brent, North (Barry Gardiner) was appointed his Special Representative for Forestry Matters; [233386]

(2) what the *(a)* name, *(b)* titles, *(c)* responsibilities and *(d)* dates of appointment of each of his envoys are. [233391]

The Prime Minister: I refer the right hon. Member to the ministerial appointments press notice issued by my Office. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House and is also available on the No. 10 website at:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/news/press-notices.

Ministerial Policy Advisors

Mr. Maude: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on special advisers, which Downing Street special advisers *(a)* he has appointed and *(b)* have resigned since the date of the Answer. [233647]

The Prime Minister: Since 2003, the Government have published on an annual basis the names and overall cost of special advisers and the number in each payband. Updated information will be published in the usual way.

Ministers: Official Residences

Robert Neill: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 618W, on Ministers: official residences, for how many months the official Ministerial residence at South Eaton Place has been empty: at what cost to the public purse; and whether the property has been placed on the market. [232786]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office, my hon. Friend the Member for West Bromwich, East (Mr. Watson) to the hon. Member for Brentwood and Ongar (Mr. Pickles) on 19 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 689W. The official residence at South Eaton Place is currently on the market. The cost of maintaining the property while it is offered for sale, for example to maintain the electricity supply, is minimal.

HEALTH

Accident and Emergency Departments: Elderly

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of patients over the age of 65 years admitted to hospital as an emergency case required *(a)* emergency readmission within 28 days of discharge and *(b)* a third emergency readmission. [233295]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not available in the format requested.

The available information from the National Centre for Health Outcomes Development (NCHOD) is given in the following table, analysed by three age groups but not including an over 65 grouping.

Percentage of emergency readmission to any hospital in England occurring within 28 days of discharge from hospital

Indirectly age, sex, method of admission of discharge spell, diagnosis (ICD 10 chapter / selected sub-chapters within medical specialties) and procedure (OPCS 4 chapter / selected sub-chapters within surgical specialties) standardised rates. Standardised to persons 2002/2003

Age Group	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*	*2003-04*	*2002-03*
Ages 0-15	9.08	8.90	8.58	8.25	8.29
Ages 16-74	8.82	8.51	8.14	7.73	7.39
Ages 75+	13.82	13.63	13.05	12.19	11.60

Source:
Compendium of Clinical and Health Indicators/Clinical and Health Outcomes Knowledge Base (www.nchod.nhs.uk or nww.nchod.nhs.uk), released October 2008.

Where there is more than one readmission within 28 days, each readmission is counted once, in relation to the previous discharge. The data available do not make it possible to link multiple readmissions to one another or to the original discharge.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimates have been made for the annual costs that would be incurred by local authorities under the policy options published as part of Safe, Sensible, Social—Consultation on Further Action Impact Assessments. [228147]

Dawn Primarolo: The impact assessment on the retail code, produced by Home Office, noted that the proposals could entail additional costs and resources for local authorities, but it did not estimate these costs, these were set out in the impact assessment as 'not estimated'.

Enforcement costs were not estimated for the advertising or labelling proposals. No decision has been made on a suitable body to enforce the advertising proposal, should this be taken forward. The costs of enforcing labelling requirements would be estimated alongside the existing costs of enforcement of labelling legislation for trading standards departments of local authorities.

Cancer: Drugs

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made for benchmarking purposes of the level of spending on cancer drugs in other European countries compared with England; and if he will make a statement. [233603]

Ann Keen: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave the hon. Member for South Cambridgeshire (Mr. Lansley) on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1054W.

Cancer: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cancer patients West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust cared for in each financial year from 1997 to 2007, broken down by type of cancer. [231928]

Ann Keen: Data are not collected in the format requested. A table showing a count of finished consultant episodes where there was a primary or secondary diagnosis of cancer in the years 1997-98 to 2006-07 for West Hertfordshire Hospital NHS Trust and the hospitals from which the organisation was formed has been placed in the Library. A finished consultant episode (FCE) is defined as a period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which the FCE finishes. Please note that the figures do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the year.

Cancer: Medical Treatments

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what consideration his Department has given to continuing assessments of orphan treatments for rarer cancers under the standard health technology assessment process. [232839]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Health's statement to the House of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 131, about Professor Mike Richards's review of current policy concerning national health service patients who wish to pay for additional private drugs.

Care Homes

Sir Michael Spicer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will require all residential and private nursing homes to have an impaired swallowing policy; and if he will make a statement; [234068]

(2) if he will instruct the Commission for Social Care Inspection to require residential and private nursing homes to demonstrate an ability to meet the needs of residents with impaired swallowing; and if he will make a statement; [234069]

(3) if he will take steps to ensure that those with impaired swallowing living in residential care and private nursing receive appropriate care and assistance; and if he will make a statement; [234070]

(4) how many people have suffered fatal and near fatal choking through impaired swallowing in residential care and private nursing homes in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [234071]

Phil Hope: All care homes are required by the Care Homes Regulations 2001 and associated national minimum standards to promote and make proper provision for the health and welfare of service users.

This includes ensuring that an assessment of the needs of each service user has been carried out by a suitably qualified or suitably trained person and that this assessment is kept under constant review.

Care homes are required to prepare a written service user's plan, which sets out how service users' health and welfare needs are to be met. This will include demonstrating an ability to meet the needs of residents with impaired swallowing. These plans must be made available to the regulator, the Commission for Social Care Inspection (CSCI), if requested.

Care homes must ensure that at all times suitably qualified, competent and experienced persons are working in such numbers as are appropriate for the health and welfare of service users. They must also ensure that staff receive training appropriate to the work they are to perform.

Care homes must satisfy CSCI that they are able to meet all the needs of service users. CSCI will take appropriate enforcement action if it has any concerns about the welfare of residents.

Care homes are required to notify CSCI of serious incidents, including the death of, or serious injury to a resident. However, specific information on the numbers of people who have suffered fatal and near fatal choking through impaired swallowing in residential care and private nursing homes is not collected centrally.

Carers: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered in Suffolk as carers in each of the last five years. [233506]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally.

Continuing Care: Finance

Jeremy Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to begin the national pilot programme on primary care trusts making direct payments for people eligible for fully funded continuing care; and if he will make a statement. [231588]

Mr. Bradshaw: As announced in the Next Stage Review, we will launch a pilot programme in 2009 to test personal health budgets, as a way of giving patients greater control over the services they receive and the providers from which they receive services.

As part of the programme, we intend to pilot the use of health care direct payments, where it makes most sense for particular patients in specific circumstances. We intend to bring forward legislation to enable this; subject to parliamentary approval, we will extend the pilot programme to include health care direct payments from 2010.

The rest of the programme will explore models of personal health budget where the budget is held on the patient's behalf. These are already available to primary care trusts under current legislation, and also offer considerable scope to give patients more choice and control.

Dementia

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he plans to spend on implementation of the national dementia strategy over the next five years. [234064]

Phil Hope: No decisions have been made yet about the resources that will accompany the national dementia strategy. Funding will be announced when the strategy is published, which we aim to do by the end of the year.

Dental Services

Mr. Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many primary care trusts fund the employment of oral health specialists to promote preventative dental treatment and good oral hygiene through the education of patients. [233347]

Ann Keen: This information is not held centrally. We recognise that oral health improvement officers are capable of achieving significant reductions in the prevalence of dental disease. Our Oral Health Plan: "Choosing Better Oral Health", which was published in October 2005, notes that the specialist skills of oral health promoters should be maintained and recommends that primary care trusts review career pathways to encourage recruitment and retention. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Dental Services: East of England

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what percentage of dentists in each county in the East of England undertake NHS work. [232626]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of dentists that undertake solely private dental work is not collected.

The numbers of dentists with NHS activity during the years ending 31 March, 2007 and 2008 are available in table G1 of annex 3 of the "NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007/08" report. Information is provided by strategic health authority (SHA) and by primary care trust (PCT). This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contractual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report, published on 21 August 2008, has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

The published numbers relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Information on dentists that undertake some NHS work and their division of time between NHS and private dentistry work is available in the "Dental Working Hours, England and Wales 2006/07 and 2007/08" report. Table 9 of this report contains the average percentage of time dedicated to NHS dentistry in England and Wales and by SHA in England in 2006-07 and 2007-08. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the NHS Information Centre website at:

http://www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalworkinghours0708

The aforementioned reports have been published by the NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many external consultants are contracted to work for his Department. [233525]

Mr. Bradshaw: The number of full-time equivalent external consultants working for the Department on 30 September 2008 was 41.2.

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* objective and *(b)* monetary value was of each (i) contract and (ii) order placed with (A) Deloitte and Touche, (B) Ernst and Young, (C) KPMG, (D) PricewaterhouseCoopers and (E) PA Consulting by (1) his Department and (2) its agencies in each year since 2004-05. [233667]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect information on contracts in the format requested. To do so would attract disproportionate cost.

A new business management system, which was introduced on 1 July 2008, is able to gather such future but not retrospective information for the Department.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232731]

Mr. Bradshaw: In accordance with HM Treasury guidance the Department has reported significant outstanding contingent liabilities in its Resource Accounts each year. These accounts were laid in the House on the following dates: 2007-08 accounts—9 October 2008, 2006-07 accounts—11 October 2007, 2005-06 accounts—6 November 2006, 2004-05 accounts—14 November 2005, 2003-04 accounts—20 December 2004. Non-departmental public bodies have similar arrangements. Inquiries have not brought to light any contingent liabilities reported to the House separately by minute during this period.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on entertainment by his Department in 2007-08; and how much of that was for *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [233524]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Visits

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on overnight accommodation by his Department's civil servants in the last 12 months. [228771]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has authority to reimburse the expenses incurred by its own staff in connection with their employment, subject to the conditions set out in section 8 of the Civil Service Management Code, which can be viewed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/iam/codes/csmc/index.asp

Further departmental guidance is available for all staff to ensure that they are fully aware of how to claim and to ensure that claims are appropriate. The Department has a contract with a travel company who negotiate reduced rates and oversee the booking of hotel accommodation within the set guidelines. If there are no hotels available within the set rate then it is possible to exceed the limit.

In the period October 2007-September 2008 the Department's spend on overnight accommodation by civil servants was £1,348,846.00

Departmental Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* minimum and *(b)* maximum level of bonus is for staff at each (i) NHS grade and (ii) civil service grade in his Department. [233293]

Mr. Bradshaw: All staff in the Department are employed in civil service grades and not national health service grades. For instance a senior medical doctor employed in a policy expert capacity would be paid at a senior civil service (SCS) grade.

The Department has two sets of arrangements under which bonuses can be awarded.

Special bonuses may be awarded to any member of staff at any stage of the year, in recognition of work beyond their normal range of duties. There is a maximum level of bonus of £2,000, although very few of this value are awarded, but there is no prescribed minimum level.

Annual bonuses may be awarded to staff who are members of the SCS, based on the extent to which objectives are met, how they are met and how stretching they are. Pay arrangements for senior civil servants are common across all Departments and agencies, although they have flexibility on the specific values of bonuses within a common framework. Annual bonuses for 2008 had a maximum value of 15 per cent. of salary as at 31 March 2008 and a minimum value of 5 per cent. of salary as at 31 March 2008.

Departmental Policy

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* reviews, *(b)* consultations, *(c)* advisory panels, *(d)* specialist adviser appointments and *(e)* strategies he has authorised in the last 10 years. [234358]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Vacancies

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many vacant posts in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were advertised in each of the last three years; and at what cost. [230625]

Mr. Bradshaw: The numbers of vacant posts advertised in the Department and its agencies in the last three years and the associated costs are given in the following table:

	2005-06		*2006-07*		*2007-08*	
Organisation	*Number of vacant posts*	*Advert costs*	*Number of vacant posts*	*Advert costs*	*Number of vacant posts*	*Advert costs*
Core Department	[1]48	[2]309,578	[2]12	[3]109,574	[4]48	[3]92,044
Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency	n/a	438,799	67	446,547	69	386,698
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	39	95,002	11	30,394	16	41,461

n/a = Not available.

[1] Senior Civil Service (SCS) only

[2] SCS only

[3] SCS 2 and above only

[4] All grades

Note:

MHRA numbers of vacant posts are for calendar years.

For the majority of staff in the Core Department, the business units that carry out recruiting pay for recruitment costs locally. To gather the information from local sources would incur a disproportionate cost. However, some information is available on the cost of recruitment advertising for staff in Senior Civil Service (SCS) Payband 2 and above for the financial years 2006-07 and 2007-08, and for all staff in the SCS for 2005-06, and this is presented in the table.

Diabetes: General Practitioners

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which GP practices do not participate in the quality and outcomes framework for diabetes. [233333]

Ann Keen: The number of general practitioner practices taking part in the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) is very high with 99.8 per cent, of the registered population in England covered. Of the 8,294 practices included in the Information Centre for Health and Social Care's 2007-08 publication on QOF achievement, four practices did not achieve the indicator to show they produced a diabetes register. We are unable to state whether these practices chose not to take part in the diabetes area of QOF, or were not able to achieve the requirements of the registration indicator, or if there were other reasons for the non-supply of data.

Drugs: Prices

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has held with the pharmaceutical industry on the Pharmaceutical Price Regulation scheme. [234675]

Dawn Primarolo: The Government and the pharmaceutical industry have reached agreement on key components of a potential new Pharmaceutical Price Regulation Scheme agreement, negotiation with the industry on the detail of this agreement has continued on a confidential basis.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many problematic drug users were referred by GPs to residential treatment in the last period for which figures are available; [231282]

(2) how many people received residential rehabilitation treatment for drug abuse in the last period for which figures are available. [231283]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 28 October 2008]:* The National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) collects data on the local services via the National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS).

The NDTMS reports that 4,306 individuals received residential rehabilitation treatment during 2007-08. Of these, 97 had been referred to this treatment by a general practitioner. Of those, 51 began residential rehabilitation treatment during the year (as opposed to already being in treatment at the start of 2007-08).

While these figures include problem drug users (defined as users of opiates and/or crack cocaine). NDTMS does not record the proportion of the total that they represent.

These figures are likely to be an underestimate of the real level of activity because about one-third of providers of residential rehabilitation services in England do not submit any returns to NDTMS.

The NTA does not have direct powers to require NDTMS returns from the independent voluntary sector providers but will be exploring how this can be achieved by commissioners of these services.

General Practitioners: Income

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much he estimates the minimum income practice guarantee will be in the general medical services contract for 2009-10. [233807]

Mr. Bradshaw: The level of minimum practice income guarantee payments for 2009-10 are dependent on recommendations to be made by the Doctors and Dentists Review Body (DDRB) on the level of gross uplift to be applied to general medical services contract payments. DDRB recommendations are unlikely to be known until spring 2009.

General Practitioners: Working Hours

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the performance of GP surgeries in the provision of out-of-hours services. [232661]

Mr. Bradshaw: Primary care trusts (PCTs) have a responsibility to ensure they provide, or secure provision of a high quality, sustainable service for their local population. All out-of-hours service providers are contractually bound to deliver to the standards of the national quality requirements. Where a provider is failing to meet the quality requirements, it is the responsibility of the PCT as the commissioner of the service, and the strategic health authority to support the out-of-hours provider to improve their performance.

The independent health regulator, Healthcare Commission, review of urgent and emergency care, "Not just a matter of time", (published on 26 September 2008) found that the national health service has made significant progress on performance against the national quality requirements.

We have commissioned the Primary Care Foundation to develop an out of hours benchmarking tool. The benchmarking tool assists PCTs in improving the quality of care and increase the scope of potential savings through effective benchmarking. Over 70 PCTs have now signed up to benchmark the performance of their out-of-hours providers.

We are also developing an indicator to measure patient reported access to out-of-hours care. This indicator will be a tier 1 "vital sign" which means that it is a national priority for the NHS for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Health Centres

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether a primary care trust has full discretion to decide whether a GP-led health centre should be opened in the area for which they are responsible in light of the commitment to local decision-making given in paragraph 5, page 23 of his Department's recent document, "High Quality Care For All - NHS Next Stage Review Final Report." [231642]

Mr. Bradshaw: The NHS Operating Framework 2008-09 (which is available in the Library) set out the Department of Health's expectation that all primary care trusts (PCTs) will secure a new general practitioner-led health centre using their share of the new and additional £250 million access fund and all PCTs are at advanced stages of the process to deliver these extra services. We have consistently emphasised the need for strong public and clinical engagement in making decisions on the location of these services and the services they will provide.

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether it is his policy that each primary care trust should establish at least one polyclinic. [234397]

Mr. Bradshaw: No. What we have asked each primary care trust to establish is a new general practitioner (GP)-led health centre, where any member of the public (regardless of which GP practice they are registered with) can book an appointment or simply walk in and see a GP or nurse, from 8 am to 8 pm, seven days a week, or with which they can choose to register.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the level of take-up by acute trusts of each product on the market designed to combat healthcare-acquired infections. [233578]

Ann Keen: It is for local organisations to decide on the most effective and appropriate products to meet local needs when continuing to tackle infection and improve cleanliness. The Department therefore does not assess the level of take-up by acute trusts of all individual products on the market.

The Department does have a range of programmes to support the national health service by accelerating the development and uptake of new technologies or innovations that help improve infection prevention and control. As part of this initiative, the Rapid Review Panel equips trusts with the information to make purchasing decisions, providing a prompt assessment of new and novel equipment, materials and other products or protocols that may be of value to the NHS in improving infection and control.

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to bring the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act into force; and if he will make a statement. [233902]

Dawn Primarolo: It is intended that the majority of the provisions in the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Bill will be commenced in October 2009. It is planned that the provisions relating to parenthood in part 2 (and related consequential provisions) of the Bill will be commenced in April 2009 and that provisions relating to parental orders will be commenced in April 2010.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons the GDP deflator in the revised Part IX proposals has not been structured in the same way as for wound care and reagents; and if he will make a statement. [234508]

Phil Hope: The Part IX review is currently ongoing, and the consultation published in June 2008 was seeking views on a proposed price increase mechanism, which takes into account annual efficiency targets that are set for the national health service itself.

As one of the aims of this review is to secure value for money for the NHS this proposal is consistent with this aim.

As this is a consultation process, no decision has been made yet as to what the final mechanism will be.

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what factors his Department considered when proposing that future changes in the price of products on Part IX of the Drug Tariff should be aligned to NHS efficiency targets through the GDP deflator in the revised Part IX proposals; and if he will make a statement. [234509]

Phil Hope: The Part IX review is currently ongoing, and the consultation published in June 2008 was seeking views on a proposed price increase mechanism. One of the aims of this review has been to provide value for money to the national health service.

A proposal that aligns potential product price increases from suppliers to the cost efficiencies the NHS sets itself is an equitable consideration.

As this is a consultation process, no decision has been made yet as to what the final mechanism will be.

Lasers: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to *(a)* the Healthcare Commission and *(b)* the health care industry of regulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light equipment in (i) medical and surgical procedures and (ii) cosmetic procedures. [231933]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of regulation of class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light equipment in cosmetic procedures is set out in the Private and Voluntary Healthcare Consultation document 2008 and is estimated to be £1.2 million per year.

The cost of regulating medical/surgical procedures forms part of the regulatory costs for hospitals. Fees for the independent sector are set at a level which reflects the regulatory effort the Healthcare Commission must undertake. The cost of regulation to the health care industry relates directly to the Healthcare Commission's costs for regulation.

Neither the Department nor the Healthcare Commission has made any estimate of the cost of using class 3B and 4 lasers and intense pulsed light equipment as part of medical or surgical procedures.

Maternity Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the Answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 375W, on maternity services, (1) how much of the £330 million allocation for improvements to maternity services each primary care trust will receive; and how these allocations have been decided; [232744]

(2) if he will place in the Library copies of guidance his Department has sent to primary care trusts relating to the additional sums made available to them in the current and future financial years to improve maternity care. [232745]

Ann Keen: The Government are putting extra funding of £330 million over three years for maternity services into primary care trust (PCT) baseline revenue allocations for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

Revenue allocations are made to PCTs on the basis of a weighted capitation formula. The aim of the formula is to ensure there is sufficient funding to provide equal access for equal need in all parts of the country, and to reduce avoidable health inequalities. The key determinant of need is the size of the population for which PCTs are responsible. This is then adjusted to take into account age related need, additional need (over and above that accounted for by age), and unavoidable geographical variations in the cost of providing services (the market forces factor). Revenue allocations are not broken down into funding for individual policy streams such as maternity.

However, the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 (a copy of which has already been placed in the Library), the key planning document for the NHS, identified maternity services as an area where PCTs are expected to take particular action to improve access as part of the wider Maternity Matters Strategy to deliver safe, high-quality care.

In the light of the NHS Operating Framework, PCTs set priorities and commission services that meet the needs of their local communities, and that is what they are doing on maternity services.

Midwives: Training

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many midwifery training places there were in each English region in each academic year since 1997-98. [231286]

Ann Keen: The number of midwifery training places in each English region for the academic years 2003-04 to 2007-08 is shown in the following table.

Midwifery training places by Strategic Health Authority in England for 2003-04 to 2007-08

		North East SHA	*North West SHA*	*Yorkshire and the Humber SHA*	*East Midlands SHA*	*West Midlands SHA*	*East of England SHA*	*London SHA*	*South East Coast SHA*	*South Central SHA*	*South West SHA*	*England Total*
2003-04	Degree	49	107	87	43	159	36	108	63	46	55	753
	Diploma	0	88	37	94	0	128	179	64	61	65	716
	18 month diploma	28	86	90	23	56	86	224	69	60	35	757
	Total	77	281	214	160	215	250	511	196	167	155	2,226
2004-05	Degree	51	112	87	36	188	61	147	75	55	83	895
	Diploma		104	37	116	0	124	197	59	65	42	744
	18 month diploma	27	75	88	12	65	75	259	50	51	33	735
	Total	78	291	212	164	253	260	603	184	171	158	2 374
2005-06	Degree	58	167	97	34	170	69	76	71	32	117	891
	Diploma		48	18	74	0	106	95	8	28	20	397
	18 month diploma	26	69	88	22	44	54	141	29	30	28	531
	Total	84	284	203	130	214	229	312	108	90	165	1,819
2006-07	Degree	60	169	103	31	171	7	195	89	59	99	983
	Diploma	0	15	15	94	0	166	106	53	67	24	540
	18 month diploma	24	65	94	13	57	42	87	47	23	15	467
	Total	84	249	212	138	228	215	388	189	149	138	1,990
2007-08	Degree	65	213	162	31	194	204	115	90	114	119	1,307
	Diploma	0	0	23	102	0	29	149	61	28	20	412
	18 month diploma	20	34	0	14	39	0	168	49	28	0	352
	Total	85	247	185	147	233	233	432	200	170	139	2,071

As the regions were organised differently and had different boundaries prior to 2003-04, it is not possible to map the information accurately to give the regional numbers. The national number of midwifery training places for England is shown in the following table for the academic year 1996-97 onwards.

Training numbers of midwives for England

	1996-97	*1999-2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Degree	161	395	621	709	753	895	891	788	1,307
Diploma	498	620	525	724	716	744	397	648	412
Other	993	757	732	677	757	735	531	554	352
Total	1,652	1,772	1,878	2,110	2,226	2,374	1,819	1,990	2,071

Source:

Quarterly Monitoring Returns.

NHS: Bank Services

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what financial advice Sector Treasury Services has given to NHS bodies on investing in Icelandic banks. [232673]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not have any contact with Sector Treasury Services, and does not have any information regarding advice provided by Sector Treasury Services to individual national health service organisations.

Under the Statements of Internal Control, NHS organisations are free to contract out financial administration and financial management functions, including treasury services, to any organisation that management deems suitable. The Department does not collect any information on individual organisations' contracted-out services.

In addition, NHS organisations are free to solicit advice from any third party that management deems suitable and/or qualified. Once again, the Department does not collect any information on the advice that individual organisation receive from a third party.

NHS: Compensation

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid in compensation to patients by each trust in each of the last 10 years. [233286]

Ann Keen: The document, "Clinical negligence payments by trusts between 1998 and 2008", has been placed in the Library and contains the information requested. The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) supplied the data.

Notes:

1. Reconfigurations of commissioner and providers will mean that some trusts will have been dissolved. The NHSLA has indicated where a trust has been dissolved, and has provided the date of dissolution when the exact date is known by the NHSLA.

2. Prior to April 2002, trusts handled their own claims below a certain excess. From April 2002, all claims were centralised and handled by the NHSLA. Therefore, around this period the NHSLA repaid money to some trusts that already expended money on those newly centralised claims.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to introduce the new process for developing the quality and outcomes framework of the General Medicines Services contract. [233197]

Mr. Bradshaw: We expect the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to oversee the process for the developing and reviewing new indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework from April 2009 as set out in the published consultation document (a copy of which has been placed in the Library).

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to consult stakeholders over the process for developing the quality and outcomes framework of the General Medicines Services contract. [233198]

Mr. Bradshaw: We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process for developing and reviewing clinical indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework to be led by NICE on 30 October 2008. The Department is holding five national stakeholder events with patient and professional groups, NHS commissioners and other stakeholders in order to consult them on how the new process should work.

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with *(a)* the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence and *(b)* other stakeholders on redesigning the process for developing the quality and outcomes framework of the General Medicines Service contract. [233199]

Mr. Bradshaw: Departmental officials have met with representatives from the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Royal College of General Practitioners to discuss proposals for a new process for the Quality and Outcomes Framework and discussions have also taken place with the British Medical Association (BMA). We launched a public consultation on the proposed new process for developing and reviewing clinical indicators in the Quality and Outcomes Framework to be led by NICE on 30 October 2008. A copy of this consultation has already been placed in the Library. The Department is holding five national stakeholder events with patient and professional groups, national health service commissioners and other stakeholders in order to consult them on how the new process should work.

NHS: Finance

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* capital, *(b)* revenue and *(c)* other funding he has provided to (i) the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority, (ii) NHS Professionals, (iii) the Commission for Social Care Inspection, (iv) the General Social Care Council, (v) the Healthcare Commission, (vi) the Appointments Commission, (vii) the Mental Health Act Commission, (viii) the Social Care Institute for Excellence, (ix) the Hepatitis Advisory Group, (x) the AIDS Expert Advisory Group and (xi) the Healthcare Regulatory Council in each of the last 10 years; and what funding he plans to provide to each in future years. [233288]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows.

Arm's length bodies

		£000
Name of body	*Capital*	*Revenue*
2004-05		
Appointments Commission	0	4,011
Commission for Social Care Inspection	4,000	96,961
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	99	2,519
General Social Care Council	1,500	22,480
Healthcare Commission	1,591	56,443
Mental Health Act Commission	0	5,049
NHS Professionals	0	31,534
2005-06		
Appointments Commission	0	4,156
Commission for Social Care Inspection	7,136	82,864
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	50	2,320
General Social Care Council	2,350	10,675
Healthcare Commission	2,591	68,851
Mental Health Act Commission	9	5,186
NHS Blood and Transplant[1]	17,750	24,287
NHS Professionals	1,073	43,927
2006-07		
Appointments Commission	0	5,200
Commission for Social Care Inspection	19,978	79,645
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	33	2,000
General Social Care Council	2,650	13,356
Healthcare Commission	4,400	67,667
Mental Health Act Commission	331	5,391
NHS Blood and Transplant	21,157	33,218
NHS Professionals	976	20,024
2007-08		
Appointments Commission	50	3,745
Commission for Social Care Inspection	18,707	69,705
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	33	1,778
General Social Care Council	1,461	12,313

Arm's length bodies

Name of body	*Capital*	*£000 Revenue*
Healthcare Commission	4,800	65,132
Mental Health Act Commission	158	5,748
NHS Blood and Transplant	39,978	26,842
NHS Professionals	673	14,050
2008-09[2]		
Appointments Commission	500	4,115
Commission for Social Care Inspection	14,000	70,890
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	50	1,950
General Social Care Council	1,100	10,987
Healthcare Commission	4,100	62,572
Mental Health Act Commission	0	5,748
NHS Blood and Transplant	23,745	51,998
NHS Professionals	500	10,048

[1] Set up 1 October 2005, six month account

[2] These are the provisional funding figures

No decision has been taken on the budgets for these organisations for 2009-10 onwards.

Charities

Name of body	*Capital*	*£000 Revenue*
2004-05		
Social Care Institute for Excellence	0	7,283
2005-06		
Social Care Institute for Excellence	0	6,226
2006-07		
Social Care Institute for Excellence	0	7,745
2007-08		
Social Care Institute for Excellence	0	7,295

The figures for 2008-09 are not yet available

No decision has been taken on the budgets for this organisation for 2009-10 onwards.

Advisory non-departmental public bodies

The Hepatitis Advisory Group and the AIDS Expert Advisory Group are advisory non-departmental public bodies and have no budgets in their own right. The secretariat for both are provided by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) and the cost of expenses paid to the members cannot be separately identified from the HPA costs.

NHS: Manpower

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS trusts have made projections of staff shortfalls in the next 12 months; and in which departments. [233769]

Ann Keen: This information is not collected centrally.

NHS: Patients

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have had their entitlement to NHS treatment withdrawn as the result of their choosing non-NHS drugs in each *(a)* strategic health authority and *(b)* primary care trust in the last 12 months; and what proportion of patients treated this figure represents in each case. [234355]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is not held centrally. However, the vast majority of NHS patients receive the treatment their clinician recommends on the NHS. The issue of NHS care being withdrawn as a result of purchasing additional private drugs has only affected a very small number of patients.

In response to the report 'Improving access to medicines for NHS patients' by Professor Mike Richards, the National Clinical Director for Cancer, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health gave an oral statement to the House on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 131, outlining a package of measures to widen access to drugs on the NHS. Following this statement, the NHS chief executive has written to the NHS to make it clear that no patients should lose their entitlement to NHS care as a result of buying additional private care, as long as that additional care is delivered separately.

Copies of the full report "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients" have already been placed in the Library and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089927.

NHS: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average annual payment per person to members of the NHS pension scheme was in 2008. [232718]

Ann Keen: The last published resource accounts for the NHS pension scheme England and Wales are for the year ending 31 March 2007. The estimated average annual payment per person was £6,367. Data are not available for the year ending 31 March 2008.

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals belong to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new NHS pension scheme. [232721]

Ann Keen: The last published resource accounts for the NHS pension scheme England and Wales are for the year ending 31 March 2007. Data for this year show there were 1,291,582 active members, 399,152 deferred members and 558,079 pensioner members of the 1995 section of the NHS pension scheme. The 2008 section of the scheme was introduced from 1 April 2008. Data on the number of members of the 2008 section will only become available after the 2008-09 accounts have been laid.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of active members in the NHS pension scheme joined on or after 1 April 2008; and what projections he has made of changes to this figure over time. [233127]

Ann Keen: From 1 April 2008, new entrants to the national health service and those returning after a break of five years or more participate in the 2008 section of the NHS pension scheme. Data on the number of members of the 2008 section will only become available after the 2008-09 accounts have been laid.

No projections have been made of the changes over time to the proportion of active members who joined on or after 1 April 2008.

Projections of how the proportion of members who join after April 2006 would increase over time were made in the context of the Public Services Forum agreement in October 2005. The figures were calculated by scheme actuaries on the basis of data and assumptions they use for each scheme. The following table indicates the staff turnover assumed across the pension schemes for teachers, the NHS and civil servants that were the subject of the agreement at the Public Services Forum on 18 October 2005.

Estimated proportion of the combined pensionable payroll relating to scheme members who join after April 2006

	Percentage
2006	0
2013	33
2018	50
2023	64
2028	77
2033	86
2038	93
2043	97

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the effect on the amount of liabilities in the NHS pension scheme of the outcome in March 2008 of the judicial review into the calculation of GPs' pensions. [233131]

Ann Keen: Following the judicial review into the calculation of general practitioners' pensions, dynamisation factors have been agreed as shown in the following table. The impact has been estimated as an increase of around £250 million to the scheme liability disclosed at the most recent full actuarial valuation.

	Percentage
2004-05	20.4
2005-06	11.6
2006-07	0
2007-08	0

Nurses: Manpower

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses per 100 beds there were in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Suffolk Hospital and *(c)* Ipswich Hospital in each year since 1997. [232623]

Ann Keen: The number of qualified nurses per 100 beds in England, the West Suffolk hospital and Ipswich hospital in each year since 1997 is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: qualified nursing and midwifery staff per 100 beds[1] in England and each specified organisation as at 30 September each specified year[2]

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	150	154	160	163	171	180	189	197	206	211	221
Of which:											
West Suffolk Hospitals NHS Trust	93	87	103	101	117	128	140	150	16	170	173
Ipswich Hospitals NHS Trust	124	135	188	139	153	156	157	167	167	165	171

[1] Average daily number of available beds, all ward types.

[2] Beds figures are for the financial year.

Note:

Data Quality Workforce statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre [illegible]th and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise in[illegible] and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data [illegible] Where this happens any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Sources:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census Department of Health form KH03

Nurses: Schools

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for North Norfolk of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 911W, on nurses: schools, if he will give the figures for each *(a)* region, *(b)* care home and *(c)* hospital. [233284]

Ann Keen: The number of school nurses employed in England by region is shown in the following table.

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2007

		Headcount
	School nursing nurses	*Of which: qualified school nurses[1]*
England	3,162	1,227
North East Strategic Health Authority	166	57
North West Strategic Health Authority	673	250

NHS hospital and community health services: Qualified nurses working in the area of school nursing in England by strategic health authority area as at 30 September 2007

	Headcount	
	School nursing nurses	*Of which: qualified school nurses*[1]
Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority	389	181
East Midlands Strategic Health Authority	267	67
West Midlands Strategic Health Authority	376	187
East of England Strategic Health Authority	241	77
London Strategic Health Authority	432	168
South East Coast Strategic Health Authority	201	89
South Central Strategic Health Authority	166	67
South West Strategic Health Authority	251	84

'—' = zero

[1] Qualified school nurses hold the NMC Specialist Practice Qualification with an outcome in school nursing—which is a recordable qualification on the NMC register.

Source:

The Information Centre for health and social care Non-Medical Workforce Census

The number of school nurses is not available for each care home or hospital. School nurses are generally employed by primary care trusts. However, some school nurses are directly employed by state and independent schools and the national work force census for national health service staff does not capture these numbers.

Obesity

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how his Department assesses the effectiveness of its strategies in tackling obesity. [233336]

Dawn Primarolo: Progress is measured against data on Body Mass Index, included in the Health Survey for England and the National Child Measurement Programme.

Official Cars

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [233528]

Mr. Bradshaw: None. The Department does not provide special advisers with Government cars.

Organs: Donors

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Organ Donation Taskforce to report on the issue of presumed consent. [233579]

Ann Keen: The Organ Donation Taskforce has now completed its inquiry into the potential impact on organ donation rates of introducing an opt-out system of consent. I expect the taskforce to publish its report within the next few weeks.

Perinatal Mortality

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether there is a national strategy for reducing the number of stillbirths; [231475]

(2) what assessment he has made of the trends in the numbers of stillbirths in different regions. [231476]

Ann Keen: There is no specific national strategy for reducing stillbirths. However, the purpose of the following publications is to improve the outcomes for mothers and babies:

"National Service Framework for Children, Young People and Maternity Standard 11" (a copy of which has been placed in the Library);

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) clinical guidelines; and

"Maternity Matters, Choice, access and continuity of care" in a safe service (a copy of which has been placed in the Library).

These policies include offering screening for abnormalities and pre-conception care and monitoring for complications of pregnancy that may effect foetal growth and well-being.

The Confidential Enquiry for Maternal and Child Health (CEMACH) report "Perinatal Mortality 2006—England Wales and Northern Ireland", published in May 2008 found no significant change in the stillbirth rate and stated that differences in mortality rates between trusts should not be interpreted as direct indicators of the quality of care as it is not yet possible to adjust for case mix or the socio-demographic characteristics of the population. A copy of this report has already been placed in the Library.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231119]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information requested is not collected centrally by the Department.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of exempt prescription items were dispensed to people aged 60 years or over in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last three years; [233207]

(2) what percentage of prescription items were dispensed free to patients in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last three years. [233209]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of prescription items exempt from the prescription charge is available for primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. There is an exemption category for the elderly, defined as men and women aged 60 and over. Figures are taken from a one in 20 sample of prescriptions. The figures provided are for the PCT which is the closest match to the Vale of York, namely North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Figures show the percentage of all prescription items exempt from the prescription charge where the exemption category was given as elderly.

Items dispensed in the community by calendar year

				Percentage
Region	*Exemption status*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	Proportion to exempt patients	87.6	88.0	88.6
	Proportion of exempt prescriptions to 60+	64.9	66.6	66.5
North Yorkshire and York PCT	Proportion to exempt patients	86.1	86.4	86.8
	Proportion of exempt prescriptions to 60+	73.0	73.7	74.2

Source:
PCA data—exemption category estimates

Scarborough Hospital

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what capacity increases have been made at Scarborough Hospital as a consequence of closures of services at Bridlington Hospital; and if he will make a statement. [234346]

Ann Keen: This is a matter for the national health service locally to determine.

The recommendations of the Independent Reconfiguration Panel (IRP) on proposals to reconfigure acute and coronary services at Bridlington and district hospital were accepted in full by the Secretary of State for Health on 4 September 2008.

The IRP recommended that it was not in the best clinical interests of patients to continue cardiac and acute medical admissions at Bridlington and district hospital and that providing these services to the standards set out in national clinical guidance was not sustainable. The IRP recommended that these services should transfer to Scarborough hospital as soon as the appropriate staff and facilities are in place to handle the extra in-patients.

The implementation of the agreed service change proposals is a matter for the Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Healthcare NHS Trust. The North Yorkshire and York and the East Riding of Yorkshire Primary Care Trusts will monitor progress together with the Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority.

Suffolk Primary Care Trust: Pay

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by Suffolk Primary Care Trust on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since its creation. [232627]

Ann Keen: Suffolk Primary Care Trust (PCT) was established on 1 October 2006. Data are provided for 2006-07 and 2007-08.

		£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Managers and senior managers	5,421	7,661
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	23,200	22,434
Administrative and clerical staff	5,288	5,500

Notes:
1. Suffolk PCT was established on 1 October 2006 from four dissolving PCTs: Suffolk Coastal, Ipswich, Central Suffolk and Suffolk West. Note that the 2006-07 figures contain data for the four former PCTs for the first six months of the financial year plus Suffolk PCT for the second half of the financial year and may be distorted due to the merger. It is not possible to split the 2006-07 data between the former PCTs and Suffolk PCT.
2. Data include salaries and wages, social security costs and pension contributions. It is not possible to separately identify salaries and wages for these groups of staff.
3 Figures include permanently employed staff and non-NHS staff, e.g. agency staff.
Source:
Information is from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial returns for Suffolk PCT. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited financial monitoring and accounts forms.

TRANSPORT

Biofuels

Bill Wiggin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research on foreign commercial activity using algal biofuel was commissioned or evaluated by the Carbon Trust before the announcement of its Algae Biofuel Challenge. [231601]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Carbon Trust commissioned a three-month scoping study in 2007, which included an assessment of overseas private-sector activity in algae biofuels. This was followed in 2008 by a stakeholder workshop organised by the Carbon Trust, at which the international experts in the algae community were well represented, and attendance by Carbon Trust employees at a number of international scientific conferences. The detailed design of the Algae Biofuels Challenge was then carried out in consultation with a leading US-based expert, who has detailed knowledge of the companies in the US and elsewhere that have received significant investment for algae biofuels technology.

Bus Services: Concessions

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what powers local authorities have to offer *(a)* free and *(b)* subsidised bus services in areas where commercial bus services operate. [232581]

Paul Clark: The Concessionary Bus Travel Act 2007 provides that everyone aged 60 and over in England, and eligible disabled people in England, will get free off-peak travel on all local buses anywhere in England. The off-peak concession applies between 9.30 am and 11 pm on weekdays, and all day weekends and bank holidays. This scheme gives the opportunity of greater freedom and independence to more than 11 million people.

In addition to the mandatory concession, local authorities outside London have the discretion to offer further travel concessions to eligible residents, under section 93 of the Transport Act 1985.

In London, the London Councils operate a discretionary Freedom Pass scheme on behalf of all 33 London boroughs. This entitles all London residents over the age of 60 to free travel on bus, tube, national rail and DLR/tram services in Greater London all day at the weekend and after 9 am on a weekday; and since April 2003, disabled pass holders have had free 24-hour access to these services.

In the event that the discretionary scheme operated in London did not offer certain minimum bus (and other) concessions for London residents, the 'reserve free travel scheme' provisions under section 240 of the GLA Act 1999 would be triggered.

Section 63 of the Transport Act 1985 provides for a local authority to secure through the payment of subsidy the provision of bus services which meet a public transport requirement that would not otherwise be met. Sections 89-92 of the 1985 Act, as amended by section 152 of the Transport Act 2000, set out the obligations to invite tenders for contracts for the provision of subsidised bus services. Section 153 of the Transport Act 2000 applies the competition test included in schedule 10 of that Act to the exercise of a local authority's functions relating to subsidised bus services. The Local Transport Bill, now before Parliament, includes an amendment to section 63 of the 1985 Act which will enable local authorities to use its subsidy powers where a service of a particular standard would not be provided without subsidy.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232723]

Mr. Hoon: Department for Transport informed the House of contingent liabilities on the following dates:

4 February 2004
25 February 2004
15 September 2004
2 March 2005
15 June 2005
11 July 2005
25 July 2005
22 May 2006
5 July 2006
20 October 2006
11 December 2007
4 November 2008.

The Department discloses its contingent liabilities in its Resource Accounts in accordance with Financial Reporting Standard 12, as interpreted by HM Treasury's Financial Reporting Manual.

Government Car and Despatch Agency: Marketing

Charles Hendry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on *(a)* design fees, *(b)* printing costs, *(c)* painting of vehicles and *(d)* consultancy fees with regard to the corporate logo of the Government Car and Despatch Agency in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) 2008 to date. [232423]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Government Car and Despatch spent the following amounts on its corporate logo:

				£
	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008 to date*
Printing costs	608.00	9,213.00	0.00	0.00
Painting of vehicles	0.00	2,926.00	2,365.00	665.00
Consultancy and design fees	54,420.00	0.00	0.00	0.00

GCDA undertook a major rebranding exercise, agreed with the Cabinet Office, just before it joined the Department for Transport in 2005. A design consultancy was appointed through open competition to develop the new corporate logo and separate product logos for Government Mail and Government Cars. The rebranding has been very successful in raising the awareness of the agency and its services, particularly for Government Mail.

There are no plans to change the current logos.

Motorways

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate his Department has made of the revenue which would accrue from charging motorists for using hard shoulders as emergency lanes; and if he will make a statement. [234348]

Paul Clark: The Government have no plans to charge motorists to use the hard shoulder so no estimate has been made of the revenues that could be raised.

Motorways: Accidents

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of deaths from traffic accidents occurred on motorways in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [234347]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The proportion of fatalities resulting from personal injury road accidents on Motorways in Great Britain was 6 per cent. in 2005, 2006 and 2007.

Casualties by road type are published in table 5c of "Road Casualties Great Britain: 2007 annual report". Copies of the report have been deposited in Libraries of the House. This table can also be found on the Department's website at the following web address:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/2856721/webtables120.xls

Office of Rail Regulation

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what regard the Office of Rail Regulation is required to have for the consultation responses it receives before concluding its periodic review; and if he will make a statement. [234276]

Paul Clark: The Office of Rail Regulation stated in the 'Periodic Review 2008, determination of Network Rail's outputs and funding for 2009-14' that

> "In making our determination we have considered carefully all the responses we received to our draft determinations".

For further information you may wish to contact the chief executive of ORR, Mr. Bill Emery, at the following address: 1 Kemble Street, London, WC2B 4AN.

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231233]

Mr. Hoon: The central Department and its agencies spent the following on Plain English Campaign training courses in each of the last three financial years:

	£
2005-06	0
2006-07	0
2007-08	2,868

Public Footpaths: Access

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the levels of use of canal towpaths by cyclists and walkers. [234513]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport has made no assessment, since the monitoring of local travel patterns is a matter for local authorities and the usage of canal towpaths, a matter for British Waterways.

River Thames

Mr. Amess: The ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to work with the Mayor of London on use of the River Thames for *(a)* passenger and *(b)* freight traffic; what discussions he has had with the Mayor of London on the subject since June 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233850]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Passenger services on the Thames are a matter for Transport for London (TfL) and the Mayor. However, the Department is always ready to engage with the Mayor and TfL on issues of this nature. The Department is also ready to engage with the Mayor on freight traffic; although this is not his exclusive remit.

The Secretary of State has not had any discussions with the Mayor on these areas since June.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy: EDF

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the Government has elected to receive the *(a)* cash offer and *(b)* partial CVR alternative following the sale of British Energy to EDF. [231243]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the context of EDF's proposed takeover of British Energy, HMG has given an irrevocable commitment to accept the cash offer of 774p per share rather than the partial CVR alternative.

Energy: Care Homes

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assistance his Department provides to care homes with meeting energy costs. [231604]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None. Care homes fall outside the usual scope of the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, which is an obligation on energy suppliers to promote energy saving in the household sector. However action by energy suppliers in care homes may be approved by Ofgem, the scheme regulator, on a case-by-case basis.

Nuclear Power

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what electrical output of each nuclear power station has been in each of the last 24 months. [231244]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department compiles information on the output of electricity generation companies only for the purpose of producing aggregate statistics. Company level data are commercially sensitive and thus cannot be released.

Net electricity supply (generation minus own use of electricity) by all nuclear stations, for each of the last 24 months, is given in the following table.

Net electricity supplied by nuclear sources in the last 24 months

	Net electricity supplied (TWh)
2006	
August	6.21
September	5.19
October	4.04
November	4.32
December	4.90
2007	
January	5.03
February	4.49
March	4.61
April	4.36
May	4.43
June	4.94
July	5.55
August	4.99
September	5.19
October	4.49
November	4.54
December	4.63
2008	
January	4.61
February	4.48
March	4.05
April	3.21
May	3.94
June	3.92

Net electricity supplied by nuclear sources in the last 24 months

	Net electricity supplied (TWh)
July	3.60

Source:
Energy Trends table 5.3, last updated 25 September 2008 on:
http://www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/statistics/source/electricity/page18527.html

Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on which date the previous Energy Minister, the right hon. Member for Croydon North, placed in the Library a copy of the departmental minute covering the indemnification of the new Sellafield parent body organisation, to which reference was made in the letter by the then Energy Minister to the Chairman of the Committee on Public Accounts on 14 July 2008. [232173]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The intention was to place a copy of the departmental minute in the Libraries of the House on 14 July. Because of an administrative error the minute was not deposited in the Libraries until 15 October. The error is regretted. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the Chair of the Public Accounts Committee on 3 November, to apologise for the omission, and a copy of his letter has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Solar Power: Housing

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* reduce the cost of solar panels and *(b)* promote their use. [233277]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Low Carbon Buildings Programme, launched in 2006, is the Government's £86 million capital grant programme funding the installation of on-site technologies for householders, communities, public sector and business. The main objectives are to demonstrate the potential for encouraging both energy-efficiency and small-scale technologies in a range of buildings and to drive down costs through economies of scale.

Since 2002, the Government have spent £26 million on the Solar PV programme and £10 million on PV field trials. To date, the Low Carbon Buildings Programme has allocated £21,471,508 to 7,731 projects using solar photovoltaic and solar thermal technology.

Electricity generated from Solar PV is also eligible for support under the renewables obligation (RO), which is the Government's main mechanism for encouraging new renewable electricity generation. Generators currently receive one Renewable Obligation Certificate (ROC) for every 1MWh of renewable electricity. Under reforms to the RO, we are proposing that solar PV receive two ROCs per MW. We recently announced that we will implement a feed-in tariff for small-scale generation up to three MW alongside the Renewables Obligation for large-scale projects.

The Government have also brought an amendment to the Energy Bill that would allow the establishment of a Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI), which is a feed-in tariff for renewable heat. The RHI would provide financial support to solar thermal water heating units.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Arts: Copyright

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what his policy is on the application of copyright and related rights regulations to the beneficiaries of creators in all sectors of the creative industries; and if he will make a statement. [234126]

Mr. Lammy: There are many rights which may be regarded as related to copyright, and they have arisen in different ways for different reasons in different sectors. Given these differences, it is not possible to say that one general policy should apply for the beneficiaries of all of these rights. The UK must continue to comply with its international and European obligations to beneficiaries of creators.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 7 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 549W, on departmental databases, how the Student Loans Company responds in cases where the MOSAIC data predict a decreased likelihood of repaying the student loan. [233394]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loans Company (SLC) uses a composite modelling tool which includes access to one element of MOSAIC data only.

The tool helps the SLC to predict the likelihood that borrowers who are not currently making repayments would be in a position to do so. It cannot provide any firm assessment of borrowers' ability to repay but it does provide SLC's loan administrators with indicative background when approaching borrowers. Once borrowers' actual positions are established—on a one-to-one confidential basis—action is agreed accordingly, e.g. to re-establish scheduled instalment repayment amounts, to negotiate lower repayment amounts or, for those earning under the repayment threshold, to facilitate deferment of repayments.

This applies only to mortgage-style student loans, which were offered to students who started their higher education course before 1998. Since that date, this type of loan has been replaced by income contingent loans which are collected through the UK tax system by HM Revenue and Customs.

Derby University: Research

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much Quality Related funding the University of Derby received in the latest funding round contingent on the results of the 2001 research assessment exercise; and how much of that funding was contingent on rating of research as being of *(a)* national and *(b)* international excellence. [234264]

Mr. Lammy: The 2001 research assessment exercise (RAE) assessed submissions on a seven-point scale:

Grade	
5*	Quality that equates to attainable levels of international excellence in more than half of the research activity submitted and attainable levels of national excellence in the remainder
5	Quality that equates to attainable levels of international excellence in up to half of the research activity submitted and to attainable levels of national excellence in virtually all of the remainder.
4	Quality that equates to attainable levels of national excellence in virtually all of the research activity submitted, showing some evidence of international excellence.
3a	Quality that equates to attainable levels of national excellence in over two thirds of the research activity submitted, possibly showing evidence of international excellence.
3b	Quality that equates to attainable levels of national excellence in more than half of the research activity submitted.
2	Quality that equates to attainable levels of national excellence in up to half of the research activity submitted.
1	Quality that equates to attainable levels of national excellence in none, or virtually none, of the research activity submitted.

HEFCE mainstream quality-related research (QR) funding is allocated to only the top three categories—5*, 5 and 4—the lowest of which recognised attainable levels of national excellence in virtually all of the research activity submitted. None of the university of Derby's submissions achieved that rating.

Higher Education Funding Council for England

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the objectives are of expenditure under the Higher Education Funding Council for England's equal opportunities budget for 2008-09. [233716]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for equal opportunities covers funding for the Equality Challenge Unit, which supports the work of UK higher education institutions in improving equal opportunities for their staff and students. It carries out research and provides guidance on these issues. The Council has allocated £1,000,000 in the academic year 2008-09 to this budget.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the objectives are of expenditure under the Higher Education Funding Council for England's procurement and shared services initiatives budget for 2008-09. [233717]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for procurement and shared services initiatives funds the promotion of effective procurement and increased collaboration with the higher education sector with the aim of improving value for money in the purchasing and delivery of goods and services. It has allocated £1,000,000 in the academic year 2008-09 to this budget.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the objectives are of expenditure under the Higher Education Funding Council for England's London budget for 2008-09. [233718]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for London contributes towards the additional costs for higher education institutions of operating in London, including supplementary pensions. It has allocated £11,399,829 in the academic year 2008-09 to this budget.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the objectives are of expenditure under the Higher Education Funding Council for England's open learning capital budget for 2008-09. [233719]

Mr. Lammy: The Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget for open learning development aims to bring about a profound cultural change concerning academic sharing and development of digital learning content. It is intended to lead to a substantial reduction in duplication of activity resulting in more efficient use of resource. It has allocated £5,000,000 in the academic year 2008-09 to this budget.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how many UK-domiciled students with a household income of between £50,020 and £60,000 were admitted to an English higher education institution in each of the last 10 years; [233709]

(2) how many UK-domiciled students with a household income of between £50,020 and £60,000 are studying at an English higher education institution. [233710]

Mr. Lammy: Complete information on household incomes of students is not available centrally.

During November the Student Loans Company will publish the Statistical First Release Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008/09 (provisional). This will include early provisional information on grants in 2008/09 and complete information on grants in academic year 2007/08.

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of undergraduate students of each social class are studying each course in higher education institutions. [233714]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information (for the 2006/07 academic year) is shown in the table. The figures show proportions of UK-domiciled young (aged under 21) entrants to full-time first degree courses and other undergraduate courses at higher education institutions in the UK, who were from lower socio-economic classes.

This information is taken from the annual performance indicators in higher education, which are currently published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA). HESA also provide this information for each individual HEI (details and figures available at the following link:

http://www.hesa.ac.uk/index.php/content/category/2/32/141/

This is not available for individual socio-economic classes, or for a more detailed breakdown by course type.

UK-domiciled young (under 21) entrants to full-time courses at higher education institutions in the UK: academic year

	Percentage of group who are from NS-SECs[1] 4, 5, 6 and 7
First degree courses	29.8
Other undergraduate courses	42.5

[1] NS-SEC: National Statistics SocioEconomic Classification

Notes:

1. Figures for 2007/08 will become available in 2009.

2. The proportion of students from low socio-economic classes has been calculated using information on students whose socio-economic class background is known. A significant proportion of students' social backgrounds are unknown.

Source:

"Performance Indicators in Higher Education, published by HEFCE/ HESA

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills which higher education institutions missed their maximum allowable student number by more than 2 per cent. in each of the last five recruitment years. [233715]

Mr. Lammy: None. Higher education institutions have not been subject to maximum allowable student numbers during the last five recruitment years.

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many young people living in Enfield, North constituency attended higher education and university in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [233895]

Mr. Lammy: The latest available information is shown in the table. Comparable figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in late January 2009 and figures for the 2008/09 academic year will be available in January 2010.

Entrants[1] to undergraduate courses from Enfield, North constituency, UK higher education institutions, academic years 1997/98 and 2006/07

Academic year	*Entrants*
1997/98[2]	635
2006/07	1,125

[1] Figures cover entrants to full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Figures for 1997/9S exclude the Open university because there are no figures available for entrants to undergraduate courses at the Open university by constituency for this year. In the 2006/07 academic year 85 entrants from Enfield, North constituency went to the Open university.

Notes:

1. Figures are calculated on a snapshot basis as at 1 December to maintain a consistent basis across both years and exclude students on writing up, sabbatical and dormant modes of study.

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest 5.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Students: Finance

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of eligible students have received the minimum guaranteed bursary for 2008-09. [229015]

Mr. Lammy: In 2008/09, higher education students in receipt of the maximum maintenance grant of £2,835 and paying the maximum tuition fee of £3,145 are eligible for a bursary of £310 from their higher education institutions (HEIs); Many HEIs offer more than the minimum bursary and at present almost all of them are charging the maximum tuition fee.

The information requested is not available centrally because payment of the minimum guaranteed bursary is the responsibility of the HEIs. However, the Student Loans Company, which in some cases administers bursaries on behalf of HEIs, and in some other cases passes relevant information to HEIs for them to administer, has changed its application forms so that applicants give their consent to share their data unless they choose not to. This change should help to increase the number and proportion of eligible students receiving bursaries.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many eligible *(a)* new and *(b)* continuing higher education students have yet to receive their maintenance grant for 2008-09. [229030]

Mr. Lammy: It is not possible to provide the information requested. The Student Loans Company (SLC) databases only capture the number of applications for maintenance grants which have been received and are being processed. Some of these applications will not be approved because the students are either not eligible for support, or their sponsor's income is too high to be awarded a partial of a full maintenance grant.

There are four reasons why eligible higher education (HE) students who have been awarded and are entitled to a maintenance grant may be waiting to receive it:

They are not attending the higher education institution (HEI);

They are attending the HEI but their application has not been received by the SLC either because students have applied late for Student Finance;

They are attending an HEI and their application is being processed (either first time through or after a change off circumstance that wilt now make them entitled to a maintenance grant);

The HEI has not sent their confirmation of attendance to the SLC or the SLC has not yet received the coronation of attendance.

On current performance, the SLC initiates payment of maintenance grants within one working day of receiving confirmation from the HEI that the student is attending the course. Payments are made through an automated system into bank accounts, which takes three working days from initiation.

Students: Grants

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) how much has been spent on maintenance grants for undergraduate students in each year since 2004-05; and how much is expected to be spent in 2008-09; [232269]

(2) what the average maintenance grant paid to eligible first-year UK-domiciled undergraduate students was in each year since 2004-05; and how much it is expected to be in 2008-09; [232270]

(3) how many first-year UK-domiciled undergraduate students have been entitled to *(a)* the maximum maintenance grant and *(b)* a portion of the full maintenance grant in each year since 2004-05; and what the estimated figures are for 2008-09; [232271]

(4) how many, and what proportion, of first-year UK-domiciled undergraduate students have been entitled to a maintenance grant in each year since 2004-05; and what the estimated figures are for 2008-09. [232272]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: Available data are presented in the following list for:

(1) the Higher Education Grant introduced in 2004-05; and

(2) its replacement, the Maintenance Grant, introduced in 2006-07.

Table 1: Higher education grants to English students, by academic year[1]

	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08[2]
Students (Thousand)				
Full grant	81	157	124	70
Partial grant	19	35	28	16
Nil grant	213	388	326	168
Total[3]	313	580	478	255
Percentage of students				
Full grant	26	27	26	28
Partial grant	6	6	6	6
Nil grant	68	67	68	66
Total[3]	100	100	100	100
Expenditure (£ million)	91	168	135	79
Average (£)	290	290	280	310

[1] Table covers English domiciled student support students in the UK, studying full-time, sandwich and part-time Initial Teacher Training, who entered HE from 2004-05 and prior to academic year 2006-07. Excludes those who do not apply to the SLC for support and excludes those who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS bursary.

[2] 2007-08 figures are provisional.

3 Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source:

Student Loans Company (SLC).

Table 2: Maintenance grants to English students, by academic year[1]

	2007-07[2]	2007-08[3]
Students (Thousand)		
Full grant	98	158
Partial grant	68	110
Nil grant	127	217
Total[4]	293	485
Percentage of students		
Full grant	33	33
Partial grant	23	23
Nil grant	43	45
Total[4]	100	100
Expenditure (£ million)	334	576
Average (£)	1,140	1,190

[1] Table covers English domiciled student support students in the UK, studying full-time, sandwich and part-time Initial Teacher Training. Excludes those who do not apply to the SLC for support and excludes those who receive nil support because they are receiving an NHS bursary. Includes the Special Support Grant payable to vulnerable groups of students who may otherwise have their DWP benefits reduced.

[2] Final data for 2006-07 became available in November 2007.

[3] 2007-08 figures are provisional.

[4] Constituent parts may not add to totals due to rounding.

Source:

Student Loans Company (SLC).

Figures cover English domiciled students in the UK, in line with the remit of DIUS. Postgraduate Initial Teacher Training students can receive maintenance grants; therefore figures include such students and are not restricted to undergraduate students. Comparable figures for first year students are not available separately.

HE grant expenditure declines in 2006-07 as—for new entrants—it was replaced by the maintenance grant in that year. The average maintenance grant is larger than the average HE grant because both the maximum grant amount and the income thresholds are more generous. The number of students eligible for the maintenance grant before means-testing will steadily increase from 2006-07 as each new cohort becomes eligible.

The Statistical First Release—Student Support for Higher Education in England, Academic Year 2008-09 (Provisional)—is due to be published by the Student Loans Company in November 2008. This will provide further information on grants, including complete 2007-08 figures and early provisional 2008-09 figures.

In 2009-10, low income entrants will receive £2,906 of maintenance grant and £3,497 of maintenance loan. In real terms, the maintenance grant will be over 20 per cent. higher than in 1997-98 and the maintenance loan over 50 per cent. more generous.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he will reply to Question 220185, on staff, tabled on 15 July. [226919]

Mr. Simon: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1332W.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community Infrastructure Fund

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the budget for the Community Infrastructure Fund for 2008-09 is; and how much her Department has allocated to the Fund in 2008-09. [233329]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 5 November 2008]*: The total budget for the Community Infrastructure Fund round 1 was £200 million, to be spent in 2006-08. In 2008-09, a number of the round 1 schemes were given one further year to spend a total allocation of £19.7 million.

The total budget for the Community Infrastructure Fund round 2 is £300 million, to be spent in 2008-11. The amount allocated to this fund in 2008-09 is £17 million.

Council Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the report of the Building Research Establishment's research into levels of maintenance and management in council housing; and what the reason is for the time taken to publish the report. [234368]

Mr. Iain Wright: As part of the current Review of Council Housing Finance the Department has commissioned two new pieces of work. The first, 'An Evaluation of Management and Maintenance costs in

Local Authority Housing', is being carried out by the Housing Quality Network. The second, 'Review of the Major Repairs Allowance', is being carried out by the Building Research Establishment.

Both these items are work in progress and will be published as part of the review process in due course.

Energy Performance Certificates

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many domestic energy performance certificates have been registered on the central database for properties in each rating band; and what the average *(a)* current and *(b)* potential energy efficiency rating is for registered properties. [232359]

Mr. Iain Wright: The rating bands for the number of domestic energy performance certificates for existing dwellings, which have been lodged on the central register as at 31 October 2008, are shown in the following table:

Rating	*Number lodged*
A	228
B	50,210
C	315,623
D	526,613
E	352,354
F	117,916
G	33,035

The Department does not hold information on the average current and potential energy efficiency rating for registered properties.

Mr. Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the reduced data standard assessment procedure conventions used to produce energy performance certificates take into account each improvement made by householders to the energy efficiency of their home. [233865]

Mr. Iain Wright: Reduced data Standard Assessment Procedure (RdSAP) conventions will be able to take into account improvements made to a property such as the insulation of walls, roofs and floors, improved glazing, heating systems and controls, provisions for domestic hot water (including solar water heating), photovoltaics and wind turbines.

Home Information Packs

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what consideration she has given to extending the period for which a home information pack report is valid. [233430]

Mr. Iain Wright: None. The elements of a home information pack (HIP) have no validity period under the regulations as there is no requirement for sellers to update any document in the HIP as long as the property remains on the market.

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps the Government is taking to ensure that search companies comply with home information pack regulations. [234213]

Mr. Iain Wright: Local authority weights and measures authorities and the Office of Fair Trading have been given the responsibility for enforcing the home information pack duties through s.166 and s.175 of the Housing Act 2004. They also have powers under other legislation to investigate allegations of any business malpractice.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 452-53W, on housing revenue accounts, if she will revise her forecast for housing subsidy from 2008 to 2023 on the basis of the figures given in the draft Housing Revenue Account Subsidy Determination 2009-10, published on 28 October 2008; and what support her Department plans to provide for historic debt in each year to 2023. [234370]

Mr. Iain Wright: No revised forecasts have been made for the period requested on the basis of the 2009-10 draft Housing Revenue Account (HRA) subsidy determination. The figures in the table in my answer of 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 353W, were produced as part of the self-financing modelling exercise. We currently have no plans to replicate this exercise.

We make no distinction between current and historic debt, as the subsidy regime supports all housing debt.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* houses owned by local authorities, *(b)* houses owned by registered social landlords and *(c)* houses in private ownership on which construction will commence in 2008-09; and on how many such houses construction began in 2007-08. [234284]

Mr. Iain Wright: During 2007-08 there were a total 155,880 new build dwelling starts in England. These were broken down by tenure as follows:

Tenure	*Number of new build dwelling starts*
LA	250
RSL	15,750
Private	139,880

Note:
Communities and Local Government does not hold forecast information on how many dwellings will be started in 2008-09. Information for 2008-09 will be available in May 2009 through the quarterly house building publication.
Source:
P2 building control returns from local authorities and the National House-
Building Council (NHBC)

Housing: Derelict Land

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the extent of brownfield sites available for housing development in *(a)* the London Borough of Hillingdon and *(b)* Uxbridge constituency. [234169]

Mr. Iain Wright: In 2007, the latest year for which figures are available from the National Land Use Database of Previously Developed Land, the London borough of Hillingdon reported having 64 hectares of previously-developed (brown field) land, of which 36 hectares were regarded as suitable for housing.

Data at constituency level are not held centrally.

Housing: Planning Permission

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what matters *(a)* may and *(b)* must be taken into account when a planning authority is determining an application to replace a semi-detached house by flats. [234044]

Mr. Iain Wright: When considering a proposal for the type of development referred to, a local planning authority must determine the application for planning permission in accordance with the development plan for the area unless material considerations, for example, national planning policy, indicate otherwise. National planning policy for housing (PPS3) says that the consideration is whether a site is suitable, based on the demand for housing of certain types and the location to community facilities, jobs, services and infrastructure.

Mortgages: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many mortgage applications for the purchase of property in Suffolk were approved in each of the last 24 months. [233505]

Mr. Iain Wright: Data on number of mortgage approvals for house purchase are published by the Bank of England. However, data are only available for the UK as a whole.

National Clearing House Programme

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* locations and *(b)* sites are of the properties purchased under the National Clearing House Programme; how many (i) dwellings and (ii) units comprised each property; what the average price per unit was of such purchases; what plans she has for the disposal of the property in each case; what advice she received in determining the price of each property; and if she will make a statement; [232758]

(2) how many domestic properties have been purchased under her Department's National Clearing House Programme; and in which local authorities; [232760]

(3) what plans she has to make the National Clearing House available to individual home owners; [232761]

(4) what the average cost of properties for which her Department has provided funding for purchase through the National Clearing House Programme has been since its inception; [232762]

(5) how much stamp duty her Department has paid on properties for which it has provided funding for purchase through the National Clearing House Programme. [232763]

Mr. Iain Wright: In May, the Government announced a plan to take advantage of market opportunities to bring private sector developer stock into the affordable housing sector by providing £200 million of funding through the Housing Corporation's national affordable housing programme (AHP) for the purchase of homes from house builders.

To help facilitate this, the Housing Corporation set up the National Clearing House to streamline initial assessment of national packages of at least 250 units from private sector house builders. Housing Corporation investment partners, mainly registered social landlords, wishing to buy smaller numbers of units from developers could bid for funding directly to the Corporation in the normal way. There are currently no plans to open up the Housing Corporation's AHP to individual home owners.

The average grant and total scheme cost per unit of all developer stock that has been purchased with funding through the AHP since May is set out in the following table. This includes both those schemes that were assessed through the National Clearing House and the smaller schemes that were assessed through the Housing Corporation.

Product	*Units*	*Average grant per unit (£)*	*Total average cost per unit (£)*
Low cost home ownership	630	13,327	137,677
Social rent	1,531	41,631	120,920
Total	2,161	33,379	125,805

Source:
Housing Corporation

Developer stock units are purchased by AHP investment partners for the provision of either social rent or for sale on low cost home ownership terms. Funding is a mix of grant from the Housing Corporation and from the investment partners' own resources.

Bids are assessed on four main criteria: fit with local, regional and national strategic priorities, design and quality, deliverability and value for money.

The distribution of units purchased, and the average amount of grant allocated by the Corporation for the purchase, by local authority area is set out in the following table.

	Social rent		*Low cost home ownership*	
Local authority	*Units*	*Grant per unit (£)*	*Units*	*Grant per unit (£)*
Allerdale	3	0	0	0
Ashfield	34	31,324	0	0
Aylesbury Vale	30	49,000	0	0
Barking and Dagenham	0	0	35	13,000
Barnsley	35	46,500	0	0

Local authority	Social rent Units	Social rent Grant per unit (£)	Low cost home ownership Units	Low cost home ownership Grant per unit (£)
Basildon	17	41,000	0	0
Basingstoke and Deane	7	87,857	0	0
Bassetlaw	8	20,000	0	0
Bath and North East Somerset	5	0	0	0
Bexley	13	63,805	0	0
Birmingham	84	48,836	92	15,454
Blaby	6	43,167	4	21,000
Bolsover	10	46,000	2	22,000
Bolton	7	9,857	0	0
Bristol	64	47,453	3	0
Broadland	6	52,750	4	29,125
Bromsgrove	9	35,000	16	17,813
Broxtowe	8	33,000	0	0
Calderdale	7	45,643	0	0
Caradon	21	70,000	8	21,000
Carrick	3	56,500	0	0
Chester	24	0	56	22,000
Colchester	10	74,800	0	0
Copeland	1	0	0	0
Craven	4	33,250	0	0
Crewe and Nantwich	24	47,000	0	0
Croydon	6	175,667	0	0
Derwentside	7	55,000	0	0
Dudley	5	0	5	0
Durham	4	55,000	0	0
East Dorset	0	0	14	25,000
East Lindsey	18	54,667	11	25,636
Epping Forest	0	0	5	17,500
Erewash	26	39,995	0	0
Fareham	14	49,000	5	18,000
Fenland	6	36,500	0	0
Forest Heath	8	75,000	2	20,000
Gloucester	8	67,000	0	0
Halton	14	50,000	5	24,000
Harrogate	5	14,500	0	0
Havant	3	72,000	3	18,000
Herefordshire	0	0	1	20,000
Huntingdon	2	18,000	0	0
Kennet	6	24,167	0	0
Kerrier	8	54,000	4	25,000
Kings Lynn and West Norfolk	4	48,750	0	0
Kirklees	11	40,000	0	0
Leeds	20	46,500	4	20,000
Leicester	21	43,048	16	7,250
Lewes	0	0	9	22,000
Lewisham	3	0	0	0
Luton	0	0	9	25,000
Macclesfield	27	32,500	0	0
Maidstone	21	50,000	30	15,026
Mansfield	2	40,125	0	0
Melton	4	64,750	0	0
Mendip	13	0	2	0
Mid Bedfordshire	17	35,882	17	15,294
Mid Sussex	0	0	3	0
Middlesbrough	6	10,000	0	0
Milton Keynes	27	47,500	0	0
New Forest	6	55,000	0	0
Newark	8	44,000	0	0
Newcastle under Lyme	52	34,168	15	1,800
North Kesteven	9	43,000	4	20,000
North Lincolnshire	8	0	0	0
North Norfolk	0	0	5	15,200
North Shropshire	30	25,010	6	15,000
North Somerset	43	42,837	7	0
North Tyneside	13	55,200	0	0
North West Leicestershire	14	43,000	0	0
Northampton	24	41,667	0	0
Nuneaton and Bedworth	72	49,097	0	0
Oldham	0	0	3	0
Plymouth	13	55,000	7	7,429
Restormel	16	0	17	0
Rochdale	5	58,000	0	0
Salisbury	6	35,000	0	0
Sandwell	0	0	14	19,000
Sedgemoor	9	0	0	0
Sheffield	0	0	2	30,000
Shrewsbury and Atcham	32	14,074	0	0
South Cambridgeshire	0	0	9	0
South Derbyshire	18	36,500	0	0
South Gloucestershire	9	0	6	0
South Hams	2	0	0	0
South Kesteven	41	49,937	13	19,871
South Norfolk	14	70,887	0	0
South Ribble	19	47,632	0	0
South Staffordshire	0	0	51	3,342
Southampton	0	0	4	20,000
Southwark	4	125,000	0	0
Stafford	4	26,129	0	0
Staffordshire Moorland	0	0	1	20,000
Stockton-on-Tees	5	49,500	0	0
Stroud	6	43,000	0	0
Tameside	21	56,600	0	0
Taunton Deane	5	40,000	0	0
Teignbridge	15	44,400	0	0
The Wrekin	18	30,076	0	0
Torbay	14	58,286	0	0
Torridge	40	61,621	12	24,667
Uttlesford	15	35,000	0	0
Vale of White Horse	7	55,000	5	18,800
Walsall	30	39,800	26	0
Waltham Forest	3	63,583	0	0
Wandsworth	4	75,000	0	0
Waveney	0	0	7	18,000
Wellingborough	7	47,000	0	0
West Berkshire	0	0	2	19,000

	Social rent		Low cost home ownership	
Local authority	*Units*	*Grant per unit (£)*	*Units*	*Grant per unit (£)*
West Devon	17	47,294	3	20,000
West Somerset	2	20,000	0	0
West Wiltshire	23	0	6	0
Weymouth and Portland	0	0	14	7,143
Wigan	6	56,500	3	22,500
Windsor and Maidenhead	10	0	0	0
Wirral	8	35,000	0	0
Wolverhampton	6	50,000	1	20,000
Worcester City	7	49,000	0	0
Wychavon	36	22,292	13	0
Total	1,531	41,631	630	13,327

Source:
Housing Corporation

Neither this Department nor the Housing Corporation purchase properties and therefore do not pay stamp duty on the purchases of these homes. Registered social landlords who purchase these properties with grant via the Housing Corporation are not liable to pay stamp duty.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what powers she has to prescribe the rateable values of premises in docks and harbours; under what legislation these powers are exercised; and how she has used her powers in this regard in the last 12 months. [233593]

John Healey: The power to prescribe the rateable value of premises in docks and harbours is in paragraph 3 of schedule 6 to the Local Government Finance Act 1988. Currently, no such rules are prescribed and all properties are subject to assessment on the same basis as all other non-domestic properties; that is, on the basis of their market rent, in accordance with paragraph 2 of schedule 6.

Planning: Enforcement

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if she will make it her policy to collect information on the number of planning enforcement officers employed by each local authority. [232506]

Mr. Iain Wright *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Department has no plans to do so, as this goes against our policy of reducing the burdens on local authorities through the collection of data. The number of staff employed by local authorities on any function is a matter for them, taking account of local priorities.

Planning: Standards

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which councils are trialling planning performance agreements; and what funding has been provided by her Department to such trials. [230709]

Mr. Iain Wright: Planning Performance Agreements are no longer being trialled. Following a pilot programme guidance on PPAs was published on 6 April 2008 which advocated their use by all local authorities where appropriate. The funding of PPAs is down to local authorities who can either charge a fee to developers or fund them from their own resources. The Advisory Team for Large Applications, a CLG-funded body hosted within English Partnerships offer a free inception day for PPAs.

The pilot programme of PPAs was run by the Planning Advisory Service and involved 22 local authorities at a total cost of £60,000 over the years 2006-07 and 2007-08.

Regional Ministers: Official Visits

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what official visits each Regional Minister has made since appointment; and what estimate she has made of the cost of each such visit. [233947]

Hazel Blears: A table providing the information requested has been deposited in the Library.

The table refers to visits undertaken by Regional Ministers currently in post and does not include details of visits made by predecessors.

Regional Planning and Development

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects her Department is delivering through the regional development agencies; and what budgets have been set for these projects in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11, *(c)* 2011-12 and *(d)* 2012-13. [234309]

Mr. Khan: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave her on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 345-46W.

Total single programme allocations for the current spending review period are set out in the following table:

£

	Total single programme allocation		
Regional Development Agency	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*
Advantage West Midlands	300,638,000	269,209,000	230,454,000
East of England Development Agency	133,401,000	127,330,000	110,749,000
East Midlands Development Agency	163,000,000	154,144,000	132,674,000
London Development Agency	344,672,000	376,021,000	322,932,000
North West Development Agency	385,008,000	377,786,000	323,440,000
One North East	245,500,000	238,879,000	203,809,000
South East England Development Agency	157,811,000	154,323,000	134,591,000
South West Development Agency	163,008,000	151,596,000	131,321,000

£

Regional Development Agency	Total single programme allocation 2008-09	2009-10	2010-11
Yorkshire Forward	299,462,000	292,348,000	250,292,000
Total	2,192,500,000	2,141,636,000	1,840,262,000

Note:
Allocations for 2011-12 and 2012-13 are yet to be made.

Social Rented Housing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what steps she has taken to ensure funding to successor registered social landlords when large scale voluntary transfers have been proposed; what rate of interest is payable in respect of each of the current proposals for such transfers; and for what period funding has been made available in each case; [234283]

(2) if she will review all business plans for large-scale voluntary housing transfers prepared by councils before they are put to tenants to ensure that they are achievable with current *(a)* economic conditions and *(b)* interest rate levels. [234332]

Mr. Iain Wright: The Department reviews and agrees housing stock valuations prepared by local authorities before tenants are balloted on a housing transfer proposal. These valuations include assumptions about the cost of borrowing in the light of economic conditions. RSL business plans are reviewed by the Department when there is a gap funding requirement to supplement privately raised finance to deliver a Decent Homes investment programme after transfer.

Interest rates payable and terms applied on loan facilities are negotiated by RSLs as part of a competitive and confidential process in the period between tenant consultation (after a positive ballot) and transfer completion. It is only then that the interest rates and funding terms are finalised between an RSL and its chosen funder.

There are currently no large scale voluntary transfer proposals that have agreed funding terms and have yet to complete a transfer transaction.

JUSTICE

Constituencies: Statistics

Mr. Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what groupings of parliamentary constituencies are permitted for statistical purposes in *(a)* England, *(b)* Northern Ireland, *(c)* Scotland and *(d)* Wales. [227826]

Mr. Wills: The Parliamentary Boundary Commissions do not group constituencies, but they may group local authority areas to help them construct constituencies according to the rules for the redistribution of seats contained in the Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986. These rules require, in England and Wales, that parliamentary constituency boundaries do not cross county or London borough boundaries; in Scotland that regard must be had to local authority area boundaries; and in Northern Ireland that ward boundaries are not crossed. The rules also allow the Commissions in each country to depart from a strict application of this rule if they consider it appropriate to avoid excessive electoral disparity between constituencies and enable them to observe a further rule requiring constituencies to be about the same size. The decision whether to group areas and what particular groupings to apply, however, rests entirely with the relevant Commission.

Debts

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to review the eligibility criteria by which indebted individuals can apply for a debt enforcement restriction order; and if he will make a statement. [233107]

Bridget Prentice: The enforcement restriction order (ERO) is set out in Chapter 2 of Part 5 of the Tribunals Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. It is currently expected that it will be introduced in 2010. It was developed following extensive consultation with the advice and credit sectors. It is intended specifically to support only those debtors who encounter unforeseen short-term difficulties from which they are likely to recover in a relatively short period. Other options, such as the reformed Administration Order (AO), which is contained in Chapter 1 of Part 5 of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 exist for those with more long-term problems. There are no plans to review the underpinning eligibility criteria at this time.

However, earlier this year Her Majesty's Court Service consulted on certain aspects of the administration and enforcement restriction order schemes, including the types of debts that should be able to be protected. The response to the consultation paper, 'Administration and Enforcement Restriction Orders: Setting the Parameters', will be issued shortly.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since its inception. [229106]

Mr. Wills: Since the creation of the Ministry of Justice on 9 May 2007, three civil servants have been seconded to one of our recognised trade unions (Public Commercial Services union, commonly known as PCS). No civil servants have been seconded to the Trades Union Congress.

Driving Offences: Mobile Phones

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many motorists in *(a)* Leicester and *(b)* Leicestershire have been prosecuted in each of the last three years for using mobile telephones whilst driving. [233740]

Maria Eagle: Available information on prosecutions in 2004 to 2006 (latest available) taken from the court proceedings database held by my Department, is provided in the following table. 2007 data should be available at the end of November this year. Data are available at police force area level only.

The majority of "use of handheld mobile phone while driving" offences are dealt with by the offer of a fixed penalty. The table does not include fixed penalty notices but does include cases where fixed penalty notices were issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

Proceedings at magistrates courts for the offence of use of hand held mobile phone while driving[1, 2], within the Leicestershire police force area, 2004-06

	Number of offences
2004	12
2005	28
2006	26

[1] Offences under the Road Vehicles (Construction and Use) Regulations 1986, Regulations 110 (1), 110 (2) and 110 (3).

[2] Includes cases where a fixed penalty notice was issued but not paid and subsequently referred to court.

[3] It is known that for some police force areas, the reporting of court proceedings in particular those relating to summary motoring offences, may be less than complete.

[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Electoral Register

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what plans his Department has to issue guidance on adding new electors to electoral registers under rolling registration rather than re-publishing registers in full; [232919]

(2) pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Bromley and Chislehurst of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 711-12W, on elections: fraud, what consideration he has given to introducing individual voter registration in Great Britain; and if he will make a statement. [232921]

Mr. Wills: Under existing legislation, rolling registration exists alongside the household registration system in Great Britain as a means of allowing individuals to register to vote. The current law requires Electoral Registration Officers (EROs) to conduct an annual canvass and publish a revised register by 1 December each year. The Government have no plans to issue guidance on the use of rolling registration to update registers. Responsibility for issuing guidance to EROs on electoral registration matters lies with the Electoral Commission.

The Government have been clear that they are committed to the principle of individual registration. However, this would be a far-reaching reform, and it would need to be undertaken with great care—both to ensure that a new system is robust, and to ensure that it properly tackles the problem of under-registration. The Government's approach to electoral registration is clear: we want to protect the rights of every eligible person to participate in the United Kingdom's democratic process by ensuring complete, accurate and secure electoral registration.

Fireworks: Injuries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people were *(a)* charged and *(b)* convicted of the offence of grievous bodily harm where an injury was caused by a firework in each of the last 10 years; [234271]

(2) how many retailers have been convicted for offences of selling fireworks to minors in each of the last 10 years. [234274]

Maria Eagle: It is not possible to distinguish offences of grievous bodily harm where an injury was caused by a firework from other offences of grievous bodily harm. Details surrounding a case are not held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform.

The offence supplying a firework, fireworks, a firework assembly or firework assemblies to a person under 18 years under section 6(1) of the Fireworks Safety (Regulations) 1997 Act, cannot be separately identified by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform, as the offence forms part of a miscellaneous group which cannot be analysed.

Insolvency: Property

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the effectiveness of legislation allowing unsecured creditors to obtain a legal charge over a property; and if he will make a statement. [233106]

Bridget Prentice: A charging order, under the Charging Orders Act 1979, is a means of securing a judgment debt by placing a charge onto the debtor's immovable property, particularly a house or land, although it can also be used against shares. A charging order also allows a judgment creditor to apply subsequently to the court for an order for sale. Charging orders therefore provide a means by which a judgment creditor can gain access to any equity a debtor holds in property.

Charging orders are one of a number of enforcement methods available and the securing of a charging order does not prevent the creditor from exercising other methods of enforcement.

The Second Phase of the Civil Enforcement Review identified no significant means by which the charging order procedure should be changed, as published in the White Paper "Effective Enforcement".

Research indicates that charging orders are used most often as a form of long-term security for a judgment debt. In the overwhelming majority of instances, once the security of a charging order has been obtained, creditors are more likely to accept long-term "time to pay" agreements to clear the judgment debt, knowing that their position is secure.

The Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007 (TCE Act) made a number of changes to the charging order regime. These changes will allow a judgment creditor to apply for a charging order even where a debtor is up to date with an instalment arrangement. The Act will also introduce new minimum thresholds below which it will not be possible to apply for a charging order or an order for sale.

The Government have not yet implemented provisions of the TCE Act relating to charging orders, and we are keeping this under review.

Judicial Pension Scheme

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the value of the liabilities of the *(a)* old and *(b)* new judicial pension scheme was at the latest date for which information is available. [234650]

Mr. Straw: The total value of the liability of the judicial pension schemes (including the 1981 schemes and the 1993 scheme) as estimated by the Government Actuary is included in the published resource accounts. Copies of the accounts are held in the House of Commons Library. As at 31 March 2007 the figure was £1,627 million.

Police: Personation

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been *(a)* prosecuted for and *(b)* found guilty of the offence of impersonating a police officer in each year since 1997. [233321]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Police Act 1996 s.90 (1), (2), (3) in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006 can be viewed in the following table.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings data for 2007 will be available in the autumn of 2008.

Number of parsons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Police Act 1996 s.90(1),(2),(3) in England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[1,2,3,4]

	Police Act 1996 s.90(1)		*Police Act 1996 s.90(2)*		*Police Act 1996 s.90(3)*	
	Proceeded against	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
1997	56	33	4	2	4	4
1998	43	26	5	4	2	1
1999	45	26	2	1	2	1
2000	34	22	1	0	6	3
2001	38	23	1	1	5	4
2002	32	16	3	2	6	4
2003	38	23	3	1	4	2
2004	36	21	1	0	6	2
2005	33	21	0	0	4	2
2006	34	22	3	2	3	3

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] Includes the following statutes and corresponding offence descriptions:
Police Act 1996 s.90(1), 90(2), 90(3)
Impersonate a police officer
Person not being a constable wearing any article of police uniform with intent to deceive
Person not being a member of police force or special constable having in possession any article of police uniform gained unlawfully

[4] Staffordshire police force were only able to submit sample data for persons proceeded against and convicted in the magistrates courts for the year 2000. Although sufficient to estimate higher orders of data, these data are not robust enough at a detailed level and have been excluded from the table.

Source:
Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Prison Sentences

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) in respect of which offence most indeterminate sentences for public protection have been handed down since their introduction; [233337]

(2) how many prisoners are serving indeterminate sentences for public protection; [233338]

(3) how many indeterminate sentences for public protection have been issued in each year since their introduction; [233340]

(4) what percentage of those serving indeterminate sentences for public protection are *(a)* men, *(b)* women and *(c)* aged under 25. [233341]

Mr. Hanson: On 30 September 2008 the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) indeterminate sentences for public protection (IPP) database indicated that the most common offence for IPP was robbery, with 27 per cent. of the current IPP prisoners in England and Wales serving a sentence for robbery.

On 3 November 2008, there were 4,863 IPP prisoners. Of these:

432 of those sentences were imposed in 2005;

1,582 of those sentences were imposed in 2006;

1,754 of those sentences were imposed in 2007; and

1,095 of those sentences were imposed in 2008.

This does not account for IPPs who have been released in this period.

From the current population of 4,863 IPPs prisoners, represented as a percentage, the requested categories are:

(a) men—97.25 per cent.

(b) women—2.75 per cent.

(c) under 25—30.39 per cent.

Most of the material contained in the NOMS IPP sentence database has been migrated from other file and IT sources. Measures are constantly taken to quality assure the information, but as with any large scale recording system with multiple users, the system remains subject to possible inaccuracies. The NOMS IPP database captures data linked to serving IPP population, and is updated on a bi-monthly basis, therefore is not a 'real time' record.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average period is between the end of the tariff of an indeterminate sentence for public protection and the release of the prisoner on licence. [233339]

Mr. Hanson: As of 5 November 2008, 38 IPP prisoners have been released on licence. The average period between the end of tariff and release was 49 weeks.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of those serving indeterminate sentences for public protection have lodged complaints about the requirements for completion of the programmes necessary for them to be considered for release on licence. [233342]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is collated neither nationally nor locally, and to provide the information requested would require manual checking of individual records which could be carried out only at disproportionate cost.

Prisoners Release

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the prisoners to be released by the end of 2009 under the end of custody licence scheme are estimated to be violent offenders. [233119]

Mr. Hanson: We have said that the End of Custody Licence (ECL) scheme will be phased out as soon as there is sufficient prison capacity to do so. However, if the scheme were to continue to the end of 2009 and there were no changes to the numbers of prisoners received, the eligibility criteria or the average number of monthly releases, we would expect around 14,800 prisoners, whose original offence was violence against the person, to be released, between the start of the scheme in June 2007 and the end of 2009.

Prisoners serving sentences for the most serious offences of violence are excluded from ECL. A full list of exclusions can be found in Prison Service Instruction 42/2007, a copy of which is in the House Libraries and may be found at the following web address:

http://psi.hmprisonservice.gov.uk/PSI_2007_42_end_of_custody_licence.doc

Information on numbers released under the scheme by category is published monthly in the statistics bulletin End of Custody Licence releases and recalls, available from the Library of the House and the Ministry of Justice website at the following address:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/endofcustodylicence.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Religion: Discrimination

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 750W, on religion: discrimination, whether the Government plan to produce a consultation document on the law of succession. [234377]

Mr. Straw: The Government have no current plans to produce a consultation on the law of succession in respect of the monarchy.

To bring about changes to the law on succession would be a complex undertaking involving amendment or repeal of a number of items of related legislation, as well as requiring the consent of legislatures of member nations of the Commonwealth. We are prepared to consider the arguments in this complex area but have no immediate plans to legislate.

Reoffenders

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many of the alleged further offences committed by offenders on end of custody licences since June 2007 were *(a)* of rape, *(b)* of sexual assault and *(c)* of other sexual offences. [233326]

Mr. Straw: Between 29 June 2007 and 30 September 2008 39,406 prisoners were released under the End of Custody Licence scheme (ECL). As at 3 November 2008, the National Offender Management Service had been notified of five offenders who had allegedly committed seven sexual offences during their period on ECL. Of the five offenders, three were subsequently not convicted of a sexual offence. The alleged offences were: rape—two; sexual assault—one; other sexual offences—four.

Reoffenders: Young People

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders aged under 21 years reoffended within six months of release from custody within each of the last three years for which figures are available. [234139]

Mr. Hanson: We do not have figures on reoffending occurring within six months of leaving custody. On an annual basis, we publish rates which measure reoffending over a 12-month period.

The following table shows the reoffending figures for offenders aged between 13 and 17 who were released from custody in the first quarter of 2004, 2005 and 2006. Table 1 shows the proportion of offenders that committed at least one further offence and the number of further offences committed per 100 offenders. Please note that offenders aged between 13 and 17 are treated as juveniles, and therefore any offences which are proven by conviction or caution are counted as a reoffence.

The figures include offenders released from youth offenders institutions, secure training centres and secure children's homes.

Table 1

			One year	
Age[1]		*Number of releases from custody*	*Rate of reoffending (Percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offenders*
13[2]	2004	20	95.0	740.0
	2005	18	100.0	588.9
	2006	19	79.0	531.6
14[2]	2004	47	83.0	363.8
	2005	53	75.6	447.2
	2006	46	95.7	500.0
15	2004	140	77.1	457.9
	2005	118	80.5	465.3
	2006	131	78.6	432.8
16	2004	244	77.1	401.6
	2005	275	70.2	424.7
	2006	262	79.4	433.2
17	2004	362	73.8	397.0
	2005	374	71.7	370.3
	2006	355	71.8	349.0

[1] The figures relating to juveniles aged 10 to 12 have been removed as the extremely low numbers (fewer than 10 offenders) make the data unreliable for interpretation.

[2] Greater than 10 and less than 50 offenders, treat the data with caution.

Table 2 shows the same information for offenders aged between 18 and 20. Please not that offenders aged 18 or over are treated as adults, and therefore only offences with result in a conviction at court are counted as a reoffence. These data are therefore not directly comparable with the data for juveniles.

Table 2

			One year	
Age		*Number of offenders releases from custody*	*Rate of reoffending (Percentage)*	*Number of offences per 100 offender*
18	2004	559	63.3	355.5
	2005	551	68.4	336.8
	2006	477	58.9	271.9
19	2004	783	58.1	295.3
	2005	689	57.0	278.5
	2006	644	57.1	270.7
20	2004	789	60.0	289,7
	2005	738	52.0	238.5
	2006	695	50.8	219.7

The latest reoffending statistics for juveniles, "Reoffending of juveniles: results from the 2006 cohort", were published on 4 September 2008 and can be obtained from the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffending juveniles.htm

The latest reoffending statistics for adults, "Reoffending of adults: results from the 2006 cohort", were published on the same date and can be obtained from:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/reoffendingo fadults.htm

Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 229W, on young offender institutions, how much of the £32,799 figure was spent on *(a)* educational opportunities, *(b)* sport opportunities and *(c)* drug programmes on average. [234144]

Mr. Hanson: The average cost was of providing a place in a young offenders institution in the latest years for which figures are available (2001-08) was £32,799 and is split as follows:

	£
(a) Education	1,190
(b) Sport	845
(c) Drug programmes	2,680

Young Offender Institutions: Drugs

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether every young offender institution provides drug treatment for those who are sentenced and who seek such treatment. [234141]

Mr. Hanson: All young offender institutions (YOIs[1]) provide a comprehensive drug treatment framework, based on the National Treatment Agency's revised Models of Care, to address the different needs of drug-misusers. The interventions available are designed to meet the needs of low, moderate and severe drug misusers—irrespective of age, gender or ethnicity.

Interventions include:

clinical services (detoxification and/or maintenance prescribing)—available in all YOIs in England and Wales;

Counselling, assessment, referral, advice and throughcare services (CARATs)—available in all YOIs in England and Wales;

drug rehabilitation programmes:

The Short Duration Programme is available in six YOIs

P-ASRO (prisons addressing substance-related offending)—available in seven YOIs;

Young People's Substance Misuse Service—a non-clinical service for those under the age of 18 in custody in England and Wales, combining education and prevention with treatment.

[1] The National Offender Management Service categorises establishments by their main role only. Establishments that have more than one role are placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison. Some young offenders—including all young female prisoners—are held in separate young offender units in adult establishments. These offenders may have access to other drug rehabilitation programmes e.g. therapeutic communities in HMP Drake Hall.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what percentage of young offenders left young offender institutions drug free in the latest period for which figures are available. [234145]

Mr. Hanson: The percentage of young offenders leaving prison drug free is not recorded.

The best measure of drug misuse in prison is the random Mandatory Drug Testing (rMDT) programme. In young offender institutions[1] the Random MDT positive rate has dropped 82 per cent. from 17.1 per cent. in 1996-97 to 3.0 per cent. in 2007-08.

[1] NOMS categorises establishments by their main role only. Establishments that have more than one role are placed in the category that represents the primary or dominant function of the prison.

Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons *(a)* between 16 and 18 and *(b)* between 18 and 21 years old are serving custodial sentences of (i) 12 weeks or less and (ii) 24 weeks or less. [234140]

Mr. Hanson: The following table gives the numbers of 16 to 17-year-olds and young adults serving sentences of three months or less and between three and six months as at the end of September 2008, the latest date for which the information is available, for all prison establishments in England and Wales.

	Three months or less[1]	*Greater than three and less than or equal to six months*[1]
16 to 17-year-olds	48	338
Young adults[2]	349	551

[1] This includes recalls, some of which have their sentence length overwritten with the length of recall.

[2] Young adults are those aged 18-20 and those 21 year olds who were aged 20 or under at conviction who have not been reclassified as part of the adult population.

The figures do not include juveniles held in Secure Training Centres or Secure Children's Homes.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans the Government has to review its *(a)* strategy and *(b)* goals in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [229384]

Bill Rammell: The Government's Afghanistan Strategy, as set out by the Prime Minister to the House on 12 December 2007, remains under constant review to ensure it reflects the realities of the situation on the ground. The Prime Minster and the Secretaries of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, International Development, and Defence are kept regularly informed of progress in implementing strategy. There is also a formal review mechanism, which allows for a more detailed periodic assessment. The next detailed assessment is due before the end of this year.

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests have been received from the United States administration for UK officials to contribute to the US review of its strategy and operations in Afghanistan; what approaches the Government has made to the US administration to offer a contribution to the review; which UK officials are involved in the review; and if he will make a statement. [232210]

Caroline Flint: As a key ally of the United States, the UK has been asked to provide assistance to a US led review of American defence and security policy regarding engagement in the greater middle east and central Asian area. Consequently, the Ministry Of Defence, Foreign and Commonwealth Office and Department for International Development have provided a combined team to contribute to this work. This team will provide expertise across a wide subject range and be fully embedded within the review process. The UK team consists of 17 people. They will be supported by a number of civil service, military and academic personnel who will remain in the UK.

Burma: Dams

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has received on the construction of the Tamanthi dam in Burma; how many of these were in favour of construction; how many opposed construction on environmental grounds; and what representations he has made to the government of Burma as a result of such representations. [230020]

Bill Rammell: We have received no representations regarding the construction of the Tamanthi dam. We are, however, concerned by reports that the project is having a serious impact on local Kukis villagers, forcing people from their ancestral villages. We condemn all forced relocations and call for all displaced peoples to be provided with adequate humanitarian assistance. We will continue to monitor the dam's development.

The Tamanthi dam project has been co-developed with several countries' input. We press Burma's neighbours at all levels to use their links with the regime to encourage a peaceful transition to democracy.

Cameroon: Asylum

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he or his predecessor last discussed the issue of Cameroonian citizens seeking asylum in the UK with his Cameroonian counterpart. [228485]

Gillian Merron: Neither my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary nor his predecessor discussed the issue of Cameroonian citizens seeking asylum in the UK with the Cameroonian Foreign Minister. The last meeting between Foreign Office Ministers and representatives from Cameroon was on 3 July, when my noble Friend Lord Malloch-Brown met Prime Minister Inoni. Asylum was not discussed.

China

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff based in China work on UK trade promotion. [229257]

Bill Rammell: There are the equivalent of 71.34 full-time staff working on trade promotion at the British embassy in Beijing and the three consulates-general in mainland China. These include staff from the UK and China.

China: Human Rights

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's staff based in China work on human rights issues. [229258]

Bill Rammell: One diplomat and the equivalent of 1.5 locally employed staff work full-time on human rights issues at our embassy in Beijing. The ambassador, deputy head of mission, political counsellor and first secretary (internal) also make representations to the Chinese authorities on human rights issues. In addition, a number of staff based in our three consulates-general in mainland China, including the consuls-general themselves, also undertake work relevant to our governance agenda in China, and when needed raise human rights issues with the local authorities.

Colombia: Politics and Government

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what questions the Government plans to ask the Colombian government during Colombia's Universal Periodic Review at the UN in December; and what criteria the Government will use to assess the accuracy of the Colombian government's responses. [228278]

Gillian Merron: The Government's questions for Colombia's Universal Periodic Review session have yet to be finalised, but will reflect our main human rights concerns in Colombia. The areas that we are likely to address include the work of and risks faced by human rights defenders and civil society organisations, and concerns about impunity in Colombia, internal displacement and the activities of illegal armed groups. These themes have been identified in consultation with civil society organisations.

Colombia's responses will be considered alongside the reporting and analysis of our embassy in Bogota, reports and views of Colombian and international civil society organisations, and reports of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Commonwealth: Politics and Government

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government is taking to improve the political and economic stability of Commonwealth countries. [227832]

Gillian Merron: The UK contributes extensive support to Commonwealth countries, to promote economic growth and political stability. The estimated total of UK bilateral and multilateral aid, including debt relief, to Commonwealth countries was £2.5 billion in financial year 2006-07.

The UK is also the largest contributor to the Commonwealth institutions, providing 30 per cent. of all funding. The Commonwealth Secretariat uses this funding to support governance, human rights, democracy, and economic programmes across the membership. And the Commonwealth Ministerial Action Group deals with persistent and serious violations of the Harare Declaration, which lays down the Commonwealth's fundamental democratic values.

Democratic Republic of Congo: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what specific reinforcements have been made by the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233073]

David Miliband: The UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) has not been reinforced externally. The mission has re-deployed existing resources within the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) to tackle the current crisis in North Kivu. These include the redeployment of an additional battalion and two additional attack helicopters. MONUC has increased its overall troop strength in Goma from 850 to 1,500. The United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and MONUC are examining further potential reinforcements from other areas of operations within the DRC. The UK supports this reorganisation of MONUC's resources and we will work through the UN Security Council to ensure the mission's resources are deployed as effectively as possible.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment has been made of the length of time needed to identify and deploy additional resources for the UN mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and if he will make a statement. [233074]

David Miliband: The UN Secretary General wrote to Security Council member states on 31 October and will further report to the Security Council with recommendations on the additional resources required by the UN Mission in the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUC) in mid November. These resource requests are not in immediate response to the current crisis. The Security Council will examine these recommendations and make a decision on the resources needed by MONUC. Should additional resources be approved, it will be the responsibility of the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations to ensure they are quickly identified and deployed. The length of time that would be needed for this would be subject to the availability of peacekeeping resources, and the willingness of troop and police-contributing countries to make commitments to the mission.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228755]

Gillian Merron: The following figures indicate how many people aged over 55 and 60 years were recruited by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office in 2007-08 and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits.

	Numbers recruited
Total recruited (all ages)	340

	Numbers recruited
Over 55	7
Percentage of new recruits	2.06
Over 60	32
Percentage of new recruits	9.41

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which companies were used by his Department for providing temporary staff in each of the last five years; and what the value of contracts with each such company was in each of those years. [229086]

Gillian Merron: In hiring temporary staff, Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) directorates may choose employment agencies from a list of companies provided by the FCO's Human Resources Directorate. These are Eclipse, Manpower, Select and Kelly Services. However, directorates may choose another company if there are valid economic or other reasons for doing so.

The FCO does not maintain central records of the value of contracts between directorates and individual companies. These figures cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost. Figures for total expenditure on agency staff since 2003 are available and are as follows:

Financial year	£
2007-08	4,019,743
2006-07	5,936,294
2005-06	3,663,441
2004-05	3,165,397
2003-04	2,357,123

Note:
FCOS expenditure is included in all of the above figures.

European Union: Civil Servants

Mrs. Gillan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many civil servants for whom he has responsibility represent the interests of *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Northern Ireland at the European Union; what the costs were of each office in which such staff were employed in the latest year for which figures are available, broken down by (i) staff, (ii) office rental and (iii) other costs. [234722]

Gillian Merron: The civil servants who represent Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland at the EU are part of the devolved Administrations' representation to the EU. My right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs does not have direct responsibility for any civil servants who represent Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office therefore does not hold information about the costs of the offices.

Iran: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the Iranian judiciary's decision to abolish the death penalty for juvenile offenders, save for those accused of murder; what recent representations he has made to the Iranian authorities on the subject; and if he will make a statement. [230014]

Bill Rammell: We received reports that, on 16 October, Iran's Deputy Prosecutor-General for Judicial Affairs announced that a directive had been issued to all judicial officials stating that people convicted of crimes which took place when they were under the age of 18 would not be executed and would instead be given alternative sentences, regardless of their offence. However, on 18 October he clarified that this only applied to non-sharia crimes, and that sharia crimes such as murder were not included.

Despite its international human rights commitments, Iran remains the world's number one executioner of children. While we welcome any small step towards the abolition of this abhorrent practice in the country, all six juveniles executed so far this year had been sentenced for sharia crimes, making the impact of the directive limited. Additionally, similar non-binding directives or declared moratoria by the Iranian judiciary have had limited impact and have not subsequently been adopted into law. International human rights organisations expressed concerns that the statement intended to deliberately mislead Iranian and international public opinion.

The UK Government's principled opposition to the death penalty in all circumstances is well known, and the execution of juvenile offenders is considered to be against all human rights standards. We will, therefore, continue to urge the Iranian Government to end the execution of juveniles once and for all in both law and practice. This year alone we, and the EU, have raised this subject and made representations in individual cases of juveniles facing execution at least twenty-two times in meetings with the Iranian authorities and through public statements. Senior Foreign Office officials did so most recently during the visit of Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister in September.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what reports he has received on the number of Christians in Mosul who have fled as a result of attacks since September 2008; and if he will make a statement; [229359]

(2) what reports he has received on the number of Christian churches in Mosul which have been attacked since September 2008; and if he will make a statement. [229360]

Bill Rammell: The Iraqi Ministry of Displacement and Migration has reported that 1,424 Christian families have been displaced from Mosul since September 2008. There are recent media reports that a small number of these families are now returning to their homes following intervention by the Iraqi Security Forces. We have no authoritative figures on the number of churches which have been attacked.

We welcome the swift action taken by the Iraqi Government to ensure security in Mosul following the recent attacks by extremist groups against Christians and other minorities. We welcome too the condemnation of these attacks by Iraq's religious and political leaders. These cowardly acts underline, once again, how little the extremists have to offer the Iraqi people.

Iraq: Weapons

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the countries that gave the UK Government information relating to the UK Government's claim in the September 2002 Dossier that Iraq attempted to purchase uranium from Africa complied with the request in UN Resolution 1441 to pass the same information to the International Atomic Energy Agency. [228660]

Bill Rammell: In the case of the intelligence that Iraq attempted to purchase uranium from Africa, the Government asked the originators of the intelligence to discuss the issue with the International Atomic Energy Agency, and we understand that they did this.

Jack McConnell

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of the post to which Jack McConnell has been appointed; and if he will make a statement. [231271]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has asked Jack McConnell MSP to become his Special Representative for Conflict Resolution Mechanisms. Mr. McConnell will be based in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), working with the FCO, Department for International Development and Ministry of Defence. His travel and other out-of-pocket expenses will be able covered by the Departments concerned.

Kazakhstan: Religious Freedom

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of draft amendments to Kazakhstan legislation relating to freedom of religion and belief under discussion in the Kazakhstan Senate; and if he will urge the government of Kazakhstan to implement the relevant recommendations of the OSCE Advisory Council of Experts on Freedom of Religion and Belief. [230233]

Caroline Flint: We have made clear to the Kazakhstani authorities our concerns about the draft law, and our view that they should take on board the recommendations of the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) experts. In April, our ambassador called on Ardak Doszhan, Head of the Committee on Religious Affairs under the Ministry of Justice and raised our concerns about the law. In June, the French ambassador, in his capacity as EU presidency, demarched the Kazakhstani Ministry of Foreign Affairs. These concerns are also reflected in the EU's statement at the OSCE Permanent Council on 23 October 2008, which called on the Senate to reconsider the draft legislation to ensure its consistency with Kazakhstan's OSCE commitments.

Separately, the UK is funding via Freedom House a group of Kazakhstani non-governmental organisations to monitor progress on the commitments made by Kazakhstan at the OSCE Ministerial in Madrid last year. This work includes legislative developments on freedom of conscience.

Macedonia: Politics and Government

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Ministers in his Department last met representatives of the government of the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; and what was discussed. [228288]

Caroline Flint: I met Macedonian Deputy Prime Minister for European Integration, Ivica Bocevski, on 14 October. Our discussion focussed on Macedonia's progress towards EU accession. I welcomed the progress outlined by Mr. Bocevski and encouraged Macedonia to continue in its reforms. I also welcomed Macedonia's recent recognition of Kosovo, which represents a contribution to greater regional stability. Mr. Bocevski indicated Macedonia's desire to make progress in the negotiations under the UN on the bilateral name issue with Greece. He also updated me on Macedonia's efforts to tighten border management procedures and document security.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of support provided to Israeli settlers by *(a)* the Israeli government and *(b)* the Israeli military; and if he will make a statement. [229899]

Bill Rammell: The Israeli government and defence forces provide a wide range of financial and security assistance to settlers. We regard all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories as illegal under international law and settlement construction as a serious obstacle to peace. The Roadmap is clear that Israel should freeze all settlement construction including the "natural growth" of existing settlements, and dismantle all outposts built since 2001. We have repeatedly raised our concerns about settlement activity with the Israeli government at the highest level.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the United States' recent military action in Syria on the Middle East peace process. [231646]

Bill Rammell: We are currently seeking full details of the incident on the Syria/Iraq border. It is the longstanding position of the British Government to regret any civilian casualties, no matter how they are caused. The incident is now an issue for discussion between the Syrian, Iraqi and US Governments.

The UK supports a comprehensive and just resolution to the middle east peace process. We strongly support the ongoing peace talks between Israel and Syria, mediated by Turkey, as well as the Israeli-Palestinian talks initiated at Annapolis in 2007. It is essential that these talks continue over the coming months. We will do all that we can to support them.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) if he will take steps to discourage UK residents from purchasing properties inside illegal Israeli settlements; [229918]

(2) if he will estimate the number of houses in illegal Israeli settlements which are owned by UK nationals. [229919]

Bill Rammell: We do not hold figures on the number of houses in Israeli settlements owned by UK nationals. All settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories are illegal under international law and settlement construction is a serious obstacle to peace. Given that, we would certainly not want any UK nationals resident in Israel to purchase property inside one of those illegal settlements. We are looking at whether there are effective ways in which we can actively discourage them from so doing.

Palestinians: Human Rights

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what response the UK Government plan to make at the United Nations to the report of Richard Falk, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of Human Rights in the Palestinian Territories on Israeli violations of Article 3 of the Convention on Human Rights in the case of journalist Mohammed Omer. [228652]

Bill Rammell: The report was first presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2008. The UK does not intend to respond unilaterally to this report. We will respond collectively with our EU partners when this report is discussed at the UN in New York later this year.

Saudi Arabia: Capital Punishment

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Saudi Arabian Government on use of the death penalty in that country since 2006. [229497]

Bill Rammell: We continue to work with the Government of Saudi Arabia on reform issues and regularly raise our concerns at the highest level, including at ministerial level. Most recently, on 15 October our embassy in Riyadh urged the governmental Human Rights Commission to end the use of capital punishment, especially in the cases of minors. The Government also regularly act with other EU states to raise the issue of capital punishment in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Carmichael: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations his Department has made to the Saudi Arabian Government seeking *(a)* a moratorium on executions and *(b)* an end to use of the death penalty against children in that country. [229498]

Bill Rammell: We regularly raise our concerns about capital punishment with the Saudi Government. Most recently, on 15 October, our embassy in Riyadh urged the governmental Human Rights Commission to end the use of capital punishment, especially in the cases of minors. The Government also regularly act with other EU states to raise the issue of capital punishment in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia: Education

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will hold discussions with the government of Saudi Arabia on means of ensuring that Saudi aid for peaceful educational programmes to Palestine is spent on such purposes. [229249]

Bill Rammell: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary holds regular discussions with his Saudi counterparts on aid for the Palestinian Authority, including for educational programmes. The Saudi Arabian Government are one of the largest donors to the Palestinian Authority. We have no evidence to suggest that aid from the Saudi Arabian Government is being diverted to other purposes, and will continue to seek the most appropriate educational programmes to support financially. The British Council maintain offices in Jerusalem, Gaza City, Hebron, Khan Yunis, Nablus and Ramallah, and work closely with the UN Relief and Works Agency on projects throughout the Palestinian Territories. Both the British Council and Department For International Development work closely with the Palestinian Ministry of Education.

Shimon Peres

Derek Wyatt: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has given advice on the award of an honour to Shimon Peres, President of the State of Israel; and if he will make a statement. [231550]

Bill Rammell: We do not comment on advice given on the award of honours or honorary awards.

Shura Council

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when Saudi Arabia's Shura Council will next be invited to visit the United Kingdom. [231648]

Bill Rammell: A delegation from the Majlis ash Shura is welcome to visit the UK at any time. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office would be happy to offer assistance in accordance with the extent to which the visit helps our departmental strategic priorities. If the hon. Member is interested in organising such a visit he should liaise with the British embassy in Riyadh in good time.

Somalia: Politics and Government

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer of 14 May 2007, *Official Report*, column 502W, on Somalia, what technical and advisory assistance has been provided to the government in Somalia by the UK since that date; and what assessment has been made of the impact of that assistance. [233080]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for International Development (DFID) provides no support directly to the Government of Somalia. DFID has been working through the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other donors to assist the Transitional Federal Institutions (TFIs), and Transitional Federal Government (TFG) to implement the Transitional Federal Charter (TFC). This assistance has enabled the introduction of basic budgetary processes and public financial management (PFM) systems in Somalia and the development of a work plan for the drafting of Somalia's new constitution.

The partnership with the UNDP also includes capacity building and technical assistance support to the Somaliland Government in the North West region of Somalia focused on public financial management and civil service reform.

UN Resolutions

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which resolutions the United Kingdom has *(a)* initiated, *(b)* co-sponsored and *(c)* voted for at the current session of the United Nations General Assembly in New York; and what the reasons are for the position taken by the Government in each case. [230242]

Gillian Merron: As at 30 October, the current, and 63rd, session of the UN General Assembly had passed six resolutions so far. Details of these resolutions can be found at

http://www.un.org/ga/63/resolutions.shtml.

The UK did not initiate any of these resolutions. Four of the resolutions were passed by consensus without UK co-sponsorship and no vote was necessary. These four were:

Permanent memorial to and remembrance of the victims of slavery and the transatlantic slave trade;

Scale of assessments for the apportionment of the expenses of the United Nations: requests under Article 19 of the Charter;

Outcome document of the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries within a New Global Framework for Transit Transport Cooperation for Landlocked and Transit Developing Countries;

Political declaration on Africa's development needs.

On the fifth resolution, in relation to seeking an Advisory Opinion from the International Court of Justice on the legality of Kosovo's declaration of independence, the United Kingdom abstained from the vote, along with 73 other member states. The UK strongly supports the International Court of Justice, but questioned the utility of this request, believing it to be potentially destabilising for Kosovo, Serbia and the wider region.

The sixth resolution was on the Report of the International Atomic Energy Agency. The UK co-sponsored the resolution, and it passed without a vote.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Charities: Lobbying

Mr. Hurd: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Charity Commission has produced on registered charities sponsoring political parties to lobby for public policy changes relating to their charitable remits. [231333]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Charity Commission. I have asked the Commission to reply.

Letter from Andrew Hind, dated 28 October 2008:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question tabled for answer today.

The Charity Commission is the independent regulator of charities in England and Wales. The commission produces guidance for charities regarding campaigning and political activity, which explains the legal position on this issue. The guidance is called Speaking Out and is available via our website at www.charitycommission.gov.uk. I have also enclosed a printed copy for ease of reference and arranged for a copy to be placed in the Library of the House.

The guidance confirms that campaigning and political activity can be legitimate and valuable activities for charities to undertake. Charities may try to influence the policy of a political party in various ways. However, the guidance explains that "a charity must not give its support to any one political party". The guidance further clarifies that "A charity cannot give financial support, or support in kind, to a political party". A charity cannot therefore sponsor a political party by way of donations.

I hope this is helpful. If you have specific concerns about this issue, please do let me have the details so that the Commission can look into them.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster (1) what percentage of employees working in *(a)* the Prime Minister's and *(b)* the Leader of the House's office are (i) on a flexible working contract, (ii) on a job-share employment contract and (iii) work from home for more than four hours a week; [233859]

(2) what percentage of employees in *(a)* the Prime Minister's Office and *(b)* the Office of the Leader of the House of Commons (i) are on a flexible working contract, (ii) are on a job-share employment contract and (iii) work from home for more than four hours a week. [234409]

Mr. Watson: The Prime Minister's and the Leader of the House's office form part of the Cabinet Office. The Cabinet Office is committed to and actively supports flexible working. The Cabinet Office's flexible working policy promotes a positive work life balance, values diversity and meets the needs of a 24/7 operationally active Department through offering different working patterns.

Information on what percentage of employees working (i) on flexible working contracts, (ii) on a job-share employment contract and (iii) from home for more than four hours a week is not held centrally. Units in Cabinet Office hold this information separately. This information would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

Employment

Mr. Harper: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the oral answer from the Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions, to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 4, on labour statistics, how many *(a)* British born and *(b)* migrant workers were in employment (i) in October 2006 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [234060]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Mike Hughes, dated November 2008:

The National Statistician has been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Oral Answer to the hon. Member for Epsom and Ewell of 20th October 2008, *Official Report*, column 4, on labour statistics, how many *(a)* British born and *(b)* emigrant workers were in employment (i) in October 2006 and (ii) on the latest date for which figures are available, and if a statement will be made. I am replying in her absence. (234060).

Your question has been answered on the same basis as the Oral answer you refer to, reported in the *Official Report*, column 4, on 20 October 2008.

The attached table gives the number of people of working age in employment in the United Kingdom by country of birth (UK born and Non-UK born), for October-December 2006, and April-June 2008 (the latest estimate available). Note that official employment estimates are published on a three month rolling basis; estimates for individual months are not available. The October-December 2006 estimate has therefore been provided. Estimates for April-June 2006 have also been included in the table to allow comparison of employment levels between the latest period available, and two years earlier.

Please note that the figures quoted in the *Official Report* (365,000 and 865,000) refer to the decrease in UK born employment, and increase in non-UK born employment respectively, over the last three years. However, due to a printing error in Hansard, the answer to Parliamentary Question 226214 (*Official Report, 13 October 2008*, columns 953W to 956W) incorrectly showed the estimated change in UK born employment from 2007 to 2008 as -24,000 rather than +24,000. As a consequence the estimated decrease in UK born employment over the last three years is 317,000 not 365,000.

The estimates in the table are derived from Labour Force Survey (LFS) microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007.

They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty. A guide to the quality of the estimates is given in the attached table.

Employment levels for working age[1] population, by country of birth United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousand

	UK born	*Non-UK born*
April-June 2006	24,670	3,104
October-December 2006	24,744	3,207
April-June 2008[2]	24,532*	3,617*

[1] Men aged 16-64 and women aged 16-59.

[2] Coefficients of Variation have been calculated for the levels of the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates as described below:

Guide to Quality

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV - for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent. we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥ 20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes.

It should be noted that the above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey.

Foreign Workers

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what estimate the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made of the proportion of foreign nationals aged over 16 years in the UK workforce in each year since 1987; what breakdown the ONS has made of the employment of foreign nationals by sector; and what estimate the ONS made of the proportion of foreign nationals in the workforce by sector in the last quarter for which figures are available. [234273]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what estimate the Office for National Statistics (ONS) has made of the proportion of foreign nationals aged over 16 years in the UK workforce in each year since 1987; what breakdown the ONS has made of the employment of foreign nationals by sector; and what estimate the ONS has made of the proportion of foreign nationals in the workforce by sector in the last quarter for which figures are available (234273).

The attached table provides estimates on the proportion of people aged 16 and over in employment who are non-UK nationals from April-June 1995 to April-June 2008. Comparable data prior to 1995 are not available. These estimates have also been broken down by Standard Industrial Classification (1992) sector to provide the proportion of non-UK nationals employed within each industry sector.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates.

Proportion of people aged 16 and over in employment who are non-UK nationals by broad industry sector, three months ending June, 1995 to 2008 United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Standard Industrial Classification (1992)			
	Total[2]	*A-B Agriculture and fishing*	*C-E Energy and water*	*D Manufacturing*	*F Construction*
1995	3	1	1	2	2
1996	3	1	2	2	3
1997	4	1	2	3	3
1998	4	1	2	3	3
1999	4	1	3	3	3
2000	4	1	3	3	3
2001	4	2	2	3	3
2002	5	2	3	3	3
2003	5	2	3	4	3
2004	5	1	3	4	3
2005	6	3	2	5	3
2006	7	3	3	6	5
2007	7	4	5	8	6
2008	8	5	7	8	6

Percentage

	Standard Industrial Classification (1992)				
	G-H: Distribution hotels and restaurants	I: Transport and communication	J-K: Financial intermediation, real estate, renting and business activities	L-N: Public admin. education and health	O-Q: Other services
1995	4	3	3	4	4
1996	4	2	4	3	5
1997	4	3	4	4	5
1998	5	4	5	4	6
1999	4	4	4	4	5
2000	5	4	5	4	6
2001	5	4	6	4	6
2002	6	4	6	4	6
2003	6	5	7	5	6
2004	6	5	7	5	6
2005	7	5	7	6	6
2006	7	6	8	6	7
2007	8	8	9	6	7
2008	9	8	10	6	7

[1] Includes those whose industry sector was not known.

Note:

The above estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc).

Source:

Labour Force Survey

Personal Income

Mr. Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the median income per capita was in *(a)* Ribble Valley constituency, *(b)* the north west and *(c)* the United Kingdom in the latest period for which figures are available. [230933]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Specific information regarding incomes and circumstances of households in the United Kingdom is available in the "Family Resources Survey 2006-07".

The data source does not allow us to provide robust numbers for estimates below the level of the north west Government office region.

For the north west, three survey year averages are given. This is because robust single year estimates for regions cannot be produced because of the volatility in estimates.

Over the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, the median income per capita in 2006-07 prices for the north west is £218 per week. The equivalent figure for the United Kingdom over the same period is £228 per week in 2006-07 prices.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Family Resources Survey data.

2. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.

3. The reference period for Family Resources Survey figures is single financial years. Three sample years have been combined for the north west as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility, so statistics for the north west cover the period 2004-05 to 2006-07, and are presented in 2006-07 prices. A three-year average has also been presented for statistics covering the United Kingdom, so these statistics are comparable to the statistics for the north west.

4. Incomes have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.

Unemployment: Young People

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many *(a)* UK national and *(b)* UK-born 16 to 24-year-olds were unemployed in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; what the percentage change in each category was over the previous quarter; what the employment rate in each category was; and what the percentage change was between the second quarter of 1997 and the most recent quarter for which figures are available in each category. [233531]

Kevin Brennan: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the Authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated November 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many (a) UK national and (b) UK-born 16 to 24 year olds were unemployed in each of the last four quarters for which figures are available; what the percentage change in each category was over the previous quarter; what the employment rate in each category was; and what the percentage change was between the second quarter of 1997 and the most recent quarter for which figures are available in each category. (233531)

The requested information is shown in the attached tables.

The estimates are derived from the Labour Force Survey. As with any sample survey, estimates from the LFS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

The figures in the table are derived from the LFS microdata which are weighted using the official population estimates published in autumn 2007. They are not entirely consistent with the figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up-to-date population estimates

Table 1: Unemployment[1] levels far 16 to 24-year-olds for UK nationals and UK born United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Thousands and percentage

		UK nationals aged 16 to 24		*UK born aged 18 to 24*	
		Unemployment level	*Change on previous quarter (%)*	*Unemployment level*	*Change on previous quarter (%)*
2007	Q3	751	22	730	22
	Q4	616	-18	600	-18
2008	Q1	586	-5	576	-4
	Q2[2]	622	6	609	6
Percentage change between Q2 1997 and Q2 2008		0.7	—	1.5	—

[1] Number of unemployed people measured using the internationally agreed definition recommended by the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

[2] Coefficients of variation have been calculated for the levels for the latest period as an indication of the quality of the estimates, as described as follows:

Guide to Quality:

The Coefficient of Variation (CV) indicates the quality of an estimate, the smaller the CV value the higher the quality. The true value is likely to lie within +/- twice the CV—for example, for an estimate of 200 with a CV of 5 per cent, we would expect the population total to be within the range 180-220.

Key Coefficient of Variation (CV) (%) Statistical Robustness

* 0 ≤ CV< 5 Estimates are considered precise

** 5 ≤ CV < 10 Estimates are considered reasonably precise

*** 10 ≤ CV < 20 Estimates are considered acceptable

**** CV ≥20 Estimates are considered too unreliable for practical purposes

Note:

It should be noted that the aforementioned estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment(e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc)

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

Table 2: Employment rates for 18 to 24-year-olds by nationality and country of birth United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		UK nationals	*UK born*
2007	Q3	60	61
	Q4	60	60
2008	Q1	58	58
	Q2	57	57
Change between Q2 1997 and Q2 2008 (percentage points)		-4.7	-4.9

Note:

It should be noted that the aforementioned estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishment (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.) .

Source:

Labour Force Survey (LFS)

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Children in Care: National Curriculum Tests

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of children in care scheduled to take key stage *(a)* 2 and *(b)* 3 tests were (i) marked as absent, (ii) took the tests but failed to register a level, (iii) reached level 2, (iv) reached level 3, (v) reached level 4, (vi) reached level 5 and (vii) reached level 6 in each of the last five years. [232330]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The numbers and percentages of children looked after continuously for 12 months, who attained the expected level at key stage 2 and 3, are shown in the following Statistical First Releases:

Outcome Indicators for Looked after Children, Twelve months to 30 September 2004—England (years 2002 to 2004 are shown in table B)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000577/index.shtml

Outcome Indicators for Children Looked After, Twelve months to 30 September 2007—England (years 2005 to 2007 are shown in table B)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000785/index.shtml.

More detailed information is unavailable.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231448]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information is as follows:

(a) Equipment reported as lost, missing or stolen in the financial year 2007-08 is as follows:

	(a) All equipment
Laptop	13
Blackberry	8
Mobile phone	3
Laptop disk drives (no data)	2
Memory Stick	0
Total	26

(b) The Department for Children, Schools and Families in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what representations he has received on students who have discontinued their studies as a result of the delay in education maintenance allowance payments. [232336]

Jim Knight: In September 2008, this Department received a letter from an Entry to Employment training supervisor who suggested that a small number of trainees may have left their course early because they had not received education maintenance allowance quickly enough.

We have not received any other representations about young people dropping out due to a delay in receiving EMA payments.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of 16 to 18 year olds have received education maintenance allowance in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [233164]

Jim Knight: Education maintenance allowance (EMA) is available to learners aged 16 to 19. The number of learners in receipt of EMA in England since 2001 is given in Table 1.

The proportions of 16 to 18-year-olds who have received EMA in each year since 2001 as a percentage of all 16 to 18-year-olds in England are given in Table 2.

Provisional figures for 2007/08 show 46.3 per cent. of 16 to 18-year-olds participating full-time education received EMA.

Table 1: Learners in receipt of EMA in England since 2001

	Number
2001/02	114,254
2002/03	124,351
2003/04	126,871
2004/05	297,567
2005/06	430,327
2006/07[1]	528,403
2007/08[1]	560,045

[1] Learners who participate in more full-time education and E2E/ programme-led apprenticeships will appear twice in these figures may have transferred from one scheme to another during the year.

Table 2: EMA recipients in England as a percentage of 16 to 18-year-old population in England

	Percentage
2001/02	6.2
2002/03	6.6
2003/04	6.6
2004/05	15.1
2005/06	21.6
2006/07	26.3
2007/08	27.8

Education Maintenance Allowance: Telephone Services

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the education maintenance allowance helpline in meeting its objectives in the last 12 months. [234388]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and manage the contract with Liberata who deliver EMA. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Education: Statistics

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what data local authorities are required to collect from schools on a regular basis; which of these datasets are reported to central government; and if he will make a statement. [233271]

Jim Knight: No central record is kept of the data collections that local authorities make of schools. The Department records the data collections that we ourselves require of local authorities, and schools, and this is published in a calendar format on a monthly basis, available on TeacherNet, at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/management/ims/datacollections/

Before approving their go-ahead, any data collection proposals from this Department are subject to a comprehensive assessment of their potential burden impact. This involves taking account of opinions of stakeholders representing schools and local authorities.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of schools in which *(a)* 0 to 10 per cent., *(b)* 11 to 20 per cent. and *(c)* 21 to 30 per cent. of children were entitled to free school meals did not (i) enter any pupils for and (ii) offer examination entry in (A) GCSE separate sciences and (B) a modern language GCSE in the most recent year for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [233163]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information required can be provided only at disproportionate cost. Information relating to the 2008 key stage 4 attainment of pupils with free school meals will be available once the NPD Statistical First Release has been published in December.

Head Teachers: Recruitment

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment his Department has made of trends in head teacher recruitment from amongst deputy head teachers. [234123]

Jim Knight: The head teacher vacancy rate remains low and stable. The Department does not collect the numbers of deputy head teachers that move into headship. Our priority is to ensure that we have enough good head teachers, and that is why we provided the National College for School Leadership with £10 million to work with schools and local authorities right around the country to develop local solutions to find, develop and keep great head teachers. The College has been making significant progress in identifying ambitious teachers and helping them become heads and latest NCSL figures show that more than 1,034[1] head teachers took up their first headship post in England over the past 12 months. These were appointed from a range of roles including deputy and assistant heads.

[1] This figure has been compiled by the NCSL based on 115 returns from LAs in response to the request (made in September 2008) for names and schools of all first time heads appointed in their area.

Primary Education: Computers

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what plans he has to upgrade computers in primary schools over the next three years. [233654]

Jim Knight: Over £600 million capital funding has been made available through the Harnessing Technology Grant and will be distributed to all maintained primary and secondary schools in England, via local authorities, between 2008-11. The Harnessing Technology Grant can be used to replenish and extend the ICT infrastructure in schools—both hardware and software. Schools can, of course, also use other sources of funding on technology-related projects and services.

Private Education

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils were educated in an independent school in each year since 1980; and if he will make a statement. [233123]

Jim Knight: It is not possible, given the amount of analysis required, to provide a response to this question within the timeframe required by Parliament. The requested information will be placed in the House Library in due course.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary school pupils were entitled to free school meals in each year since 1980; and if he will make a statement. [233124]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The available information is shown in the following table. Prior to 1993 information on numbers of pupils eligible for free school meals was not collected.

Maintained primary and secondary schools[1]: school meal arrangements—position in January each year 1993 to 2008, England

Maintained primary

	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]*	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
1993	4,165,310	768,780	18.5	916,070	22.0
1994	4,241,670	810,650	19.1	949,790	22.4
1995	4,312,070	810,750	18.8	956,500	22.2
1996	4,389,310	823,530	18.8	974,280	22.2
1997	4,428,620	771,780	17.4	938,540	21.2
1998	4,460,130	727,840	16.3	886,070	19.9
1999	4,460,170	686,840	15.4	848,170	19.0
2000	4,435,340	668,180	15.1	816,990	18.4
2001	4,406,190	628,510	14.3	779,310	17.7
2002	4,363,270	613,560	14.1	750,590	17.2
2003	4,309,780	601,900	14.0	727,630	16.9
2004	4,254,210	605,840	14.2	737,220	17.3
2005	4,205,670	565,830	13.5	713,680	17.0
2006	4,150,590	553,690	13.3	666,890	16.1
2007	4,110,750	541,940	13.2	655,510	15.9
2008	4,090,400	536,000	13.1	638,310	15.6

Maintained secondary

	Number on roll[2]	*Number of pupils taking free school meals[3]*	*Percentage of pupils taking free school meals*	*Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*	*Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals*
1993	2,960,830	338,190	11.4	472,350	16.0
1994	2,929,350	370,160	12.6	517,110	17.7
1995	2,988,950	387,550	13.0	539,440	18.0
1996	3,006,940	399,620	13.3	550,900	18.3
1997	3,036,990	381,240	12.6	552,900	18.2
1998	3,069,030	367,800	12.0	537,070	17.5
1999	3,118,280	367,800	11.8	527,340	16.9
2000	3,178,000	368,300	11.6	523,630	16.5
2001	3,226,970	353,470	11.0	509,680	15.8
2002	3,260,930	354,260	10.9	486,350	14.9
2003	3,308,490	349,780	10.6	478,920	14.5
2004	3,326,800	351,380	10.6	477,290	14.3
2005	3,317,590	335,140	10.1	465,520	14.0
2006	3,309,720	328,750	9.9	448,680	13.6
2007	3,272,480	314,630	9.6	429,700	13.1
2008	3,214,030	308,150	9.6	410,810	12.8

[1] Includes middles schools as deemed.

[2] Prior to 2003 includes dually registered pupils and excludes boarding pupils, from 2003 onwards includes dually registered pupils and boarding pupils.

[3] Based upon school level numbers of pupils who had a free school meal on the census day in January.

Note:

National pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

Schools Census

School Leaving

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the increase in *(a)* pupil numbers and *(b)* school estates over the next 10 years as a result of the change in post-16 year old education provision; and at what cost. [232337]

Jim Knight: There are two fundamental changes expected in post 16 provisions over the next 10 years. Firstly by 2015, subject to the successful passage of the current Education and Skills Bill, all young people will be required to be in some form of education or training until at least 18. Secondly, in the future, all publicly funded qualifications will fall within one of four routes—Apprenticeships, Diplomas, the Foundation Learning Tier or General Qualifications (GCSEs and A Levels). The growth in numbers of Apprenticeships toward one in five young people, alongside the delivery of 17 Diploma lines, will both enable full participation of young people and mean that the growth of pupil numbers is not predominantly schools based.

In 2007/08, there were 447,500 16 to 17-year-olds and 23,800 18-year-olds participating in schools out of a total of 1,119,400 16 to 17-year-olds and 375,800 18-year-olds participating in Education and Work Based Learning. Mid-year population estimates for 2015 suggest that, with full participation, there will be around 1,197,300 16 to 17-year-olds participating in Education and WBL. The trajectory, and costs attributed to achieving these levels of participation, including the relative contribution of schools, colleges and other providers will be agreed as part of the next spending review.

The changes in provision will mean changing requirements as to what schools, colleges and learning providers offer, with some implications for school estates. The 16-19 capital fund was established to meet the cost of new post-16 places in schools and colleges. The value of this fund is £630 million in the three years to 2010-11. In addition, there will be a further £30 million in 2010-11 in recognition of the additional post-16 costs associated with raising the participation age. Further monies will need to be agreed as part of the next spending review.

Schools: Governing Bodies

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many vacancies there were for school governors in Suffolk for *(a)* primary, *(b)* middle and *(c)* upper schools in each of the last five years. [233507]

Jim Knight: The Department does not routinely collect this information. Suffolk county council has provided the following information. This information is not held for earlier years.

	October	
Governor vacancies	*2007*	*2008*
Primary	321	495
Middle	102	156
Upper and Higher	73	102

Schools: Voluntary Work

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage volunteers to assist children with reading in schools. [233278]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department undertakes a variety of activity to support children's reading, notably in 2008 through the National Year of Reading. We also fund Volunteer Reading Help (VRH) a national charity which recruits and trains volunteers to help children who are struggling to learn to read.

Specialist Schools: Languages

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of specialist language colleges teach languages on a compulsory basis until the age of 16 years. [233083]

Jim Knight: To date 352 specialist schools have chosen languages as one of their specialisms with the aim of becoming centres of excellence and supporting the National Languages Strategy 'Languages for all'. Schools opting for this specialism must be able to demonstrate their commitment to promoting languages in Key Stage 4 and ensure that all students follow a language course at this key stage. However my Department does not collect data on how many specialist language schools teach languages on a compulsory basis until the age of 16 years.

Languages are already a compulsory part of the national curriculum at key stage 3. In response to Lord Dearing's recommendations on how to increase the number of pupils doing languages post-14 we will provide better and more coherent support for teachers, introduce a more flexible curriculum and make languages compulsory at key stage 2 from September 2011.

Specialist Schools: Science

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of specialist science colleges offer GCSEs in the separate sciences. [233084]

Jim Knight: To date 433 specialist schools have chosen science as one of their specialisms with the aim of becoming centres of excellence and improving post-16 participation in science. However my Department does not collect data on how many and what percentages of specialist science schools offer GCSEs in the separate sciences.

From September 2008 all specialist science schools will offer triple science at least to all pupils who have achieved level 6+ at the end of key stage 3. In addition there are 580 technology and 68 engineering specialist schools which will be expected to offer triple science from September 2009 and 361 mathematics and computing specialist schools which will be expected to offer triple science from September 2010.

Talent Taskforce

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much he expects his Department to spend on the Talent Taskforce in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [233606]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Talent and Enterprise Taskforce's programme budget is £4 million per year for the period 2008-11. The Taskforce's running costs are £350,919 per year over the same period. This is used to fund programmes and activities to promote the talent agenda and engage influential networks and organisations across society to do the same.

Teachers TV

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department and its predecessor paid towards the production of Teachers TV in the last three years for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [233160]

Jim Knight: Teachers TV was launched in February 2005 and aims to help raise standards in classrooms by sharing good practice, supporting continuing professional development, offering classroom resources, and providing education news and information. In the channel's first operating year the Department provided funding of £19.9 million, in the second £16 million and £16.7 million in the third operating year.

Teachers: Enfield

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* classroom assistants worked in maintained schools in Enfield North constituency (i) in 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [233896]

Jim Knight: The following table provides the full-time equivalent number of teachers and teaching assistants employed in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral units in Enfield North constituency and England, January 1997 and 2008.

Full-time equivalent teachers[1] and teaching assistants[2] in local authority maintained nursery, primary, secondary, special and pupil referral unit, years 1997 and 2008 — coverage: Enfield North constituency and England

	Enfield North constituency	England
1997		
Teachers	990	385,690
Teaching assistants	110	60,580
2008		
Teachers	1,200	421,310
Teaching assistants	550	175,660

[1] Includes qualified and unqualified teachers.

[2] 'Teaching assistants' include teaching assistants, special needs support staff and minority ethnic pupil support staff.

Notes:

1. Excludes academies and city technology colleges.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding the Training and Development Agency has recovered as a result of unfilled places in teacher training in each of the last five years; and how that money has been reallocated. [233514]

Jim Knight: The Training and Development Agency for Schools recovers funding allocated to initial teacher training providers for initial teacher training places that remain unfilled. The following table shows the amount of funding recovered for the five most recent years for which figures are currently available, split between unfilled provider-based (higher education institution and school centred initial teacher training) initial teacher training places and employment-based initial teacher training places.

£ million

Academic year	*Unfilled provider-based (HEI and SCITT) initial teacher training places*	*Unfilled employment-based initial teacher training places*
2003/04	8.145	n/a
2004/05	9.494	5.700
2005/06	6.540	5.590
2006/07	8.904	5.978
2007/08	7.749	5.841

n/a = Not available.

Source

Training and Development Agency for Schools.

Funding recovered by the TDA from initial teacher training providers for unfilled initial teacher training places is recycled. The amount of funding allocated to an initial teacher training provider for the next academic year period is reduced by the amount of funding recoverable from them for unfilled initial teacher training places in the previous academic year.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many providers of initial teacher training have asked for an increase in their number of teacher training places in each of the last five years. [233516]

Jim Knight: The Training and Development Agency for Schools holds records of those applications from initial teacher training providers for additional initial teacher training place allocations that are successful. The TDA does not maintain records of unsuccessful applications from initial teacher training providers. The following table shows the number of initial teacher training providers that were allocated additional places for each of the five years 2005/06 through to 2010/11.

Academic year	*Provider-based (HEI and SCITT) ITT providers*	*Employment-based ITT providers*
2005/06	30	45
2006/07	35	40
2007/08	46	47
2008/09	28	42
2009/10	66	2

Academic year	*Provider-based (HEI and SCITT) ITT providers*	*Employment-based ITT providers*
2010/11	64	27

Source:
Training and Development Agency for Schools.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Business: Thames Gateway Bridge

Lyn Brown: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge on businesses in *(a)* East London, *(b)* South East London and *(c)* Greater London. [232928]

Mr. McFadden: Assessments of the impact on business of the proposed Thames Gateway bridge are a matter for Transport for London as the scheme's promoter.

Combined Heat and Power: Public Buildings

Dr. Whitehead: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what proportion of the electricity derived from combined heat and power plants is obtained from combined heat and power plants located on the Government estate. [220790]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

There are 10 combined heat and power (CHP) schemes located on the Government estate registered with the Government's CHP quality assurance programme (CHPQA). In 2007-08 these 10 schemes produced just over 19 gigawatt hours of good quality CHP electricity. This represents around 0.1 per cent. of the 28,677 gigawatts electricity produced in total by good quality CHP plants in the UK in 2007.

Early information from the Sustainable Development Commission (SDC) as part of its annual Sustainable Development in Government (SDiG) report indicates that total CHP generated electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08 was 311 gigawatt hours. This would mean that the 19 gigawatt hours of good quality CHP electricity generated on the Government estate represents around 6 per cent. of the total CHP electricity consumed on the Government estate in 2007-08.

Company Liquidations

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many businesses have entered liquidation in England and Wales in each year since 1997. [229382]

Mr. McFadden: The following table records numbers of liquidations and trading-related bankruptcies in England and Wales in each year since 1997.

	Company liquidations	*Bankruptcy orders for self-employed individuals*[1]
1997	12,610	11,269
1998	13,203	10,420
1999	14,280	10,723
2000	14,317	9,952
2001	14,972	9,839
2002	16,306	8,854
2003	14,184	9,139
2004	12,192	9,564
2005	12,893	10,839
2006	13,137	10,894
2007	12,507	7,058

[1] Figures from the fourth quarter of 2006 are based on a revised classification. This should be noted when interpreting trends in the above series.

Contracts: Cancellations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Certification Officer has produced on the application of the Cancellation of Contracts made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008 to the sale of union membership in a workplace. [233540]

Mr. McFadden: The Department has produced general guidance, available on the BERR web site, about the Cancellation of Contracts Made in a Consumer's Home or Place of Work etc. Regulations 2008. The guidance does not specifically cover the application of the regulations to the sale of union membership in a workplace.

This is not an issue within the Certification Officer's jurisdiction and he has produced no guidance on the regulations.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 268W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233406]

Mr. McFadden: BERR did not undertake any refurbishments on its HQ estate during the period covered by the previous question to which this refers. The refurbishments listed in the answer given on 6 October 2008 were undertaken by Companies House and the Insolvency Service and I have approached their chief executives who will respond to the right hon. Gentleman directly.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 10 November 2008:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/4320), pursuant to the Answer to the Hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6th October 2008, Official Report, column 268W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was.

The Insolvency Service did not carry out any work that constitutes a refurbishment in the relevant period. Therefore, we did not incur refurbishment costs.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 10 November 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

The costs of the refurbishments carried out by Companies House in the last 24 months are as follows:

Redecoration and carpeting of London office: £12,500

Refurbishment in Cardiff office: £560,000

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many external consultants were under contract to provide work for his Department as at 1 October 2008. [231503]

Mr. McFadden: The Department employs external consultants on time limited projects to provide objective advice and assistance when in-house skills are not available.

Our records show that as at 1 October 2008, 72 consultants were under contract to provide work for the Department.

The Department has recently introduced the CARA (Consultancy And Research Approval) process to monitor and provide authorisation, by the Senior Responsible Officer, of any Consultancy requirement that exceeds £85,000. CARA requires staff to seek approval for engagement of such services before contracts are entered into.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231449]

Mr. McFadden: In the last 12 months, 1 November 2007 to date, the following equipment and data have been recorded as lost by BERR staff.

	Number
Laptop PCs	3
Blackberry Handheld devices	7

The table contains the losses for those parts of BERR which now form part of the Department for Energy and Climate Change.

Laptops belonging to BERR utilise full-hard disk encryption.

The Blackberry Handheld Devices also utilise full encryption. In addition when the loss is reported a "wipe" command is sent to the missing device.

BERR, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08.

Departmental Mobile Phones

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many mobile telephones his Department and its predecessor bought in each of the last five years. [232676]

Mr. McFadden: The Department maintains records of the number of official mobile telephones held by staff that have been purchased through the Office of Government Commerce Catalist Contract. BERR currently holds 949 mobile telephones under this contract. Our suppliers can only provide details of new orders over the last 12 months during which BERR has purchased 204 new mobile handsets. This figure includes upgrades and contract renewals on existing services. Earlier financial year figures are not available.

Departmental NDPBs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what funding has been agreed with each of his Department's non-departmental public bodies for the period 2008 to 2011. [229133]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* Funding for 2008-09 agreed with each of the Department's executive non-departmental public bodies, above £1 million, can be found on page 398 of the published Central Government Supply Estimates 2008-09—see extract and following link. The only body not on the list is "Sitpro" and we have agreed a figure of £800,000 for 2008-09. Funding for future years (i.e. 2009-10 and 2010-11) has not yet been agreed.

Web link:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/5705.htm

Main Estimate 2008-09—Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform

Notes to the Main Estimate (continued)

		£000
RfR Section	*Body*	*Grants in aid*
RfR1-G	Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service	44,637
RfR1-A	The National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux	21,470
RfR1-A	Citizen's Advice Scotland	3,018
RfR1-P	The National Consumer Council	3,775
RfR1-Q	Energy Watch	10,642
RfR1-P	Postwatch	8,421
RfR1-R	Capital for Enterprise	2,545
RfR1-P	The Competition Service	4,283
RfR1-P	The Competition Commission	21,399
RfR1-U	The Coal Authority	37,3.37
RfR1-S	The Regional Development Agencies	1,778,837
RfR1-U	The United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority	7,667
RfR1-U	The Nuclear Decommissioning Authority	2,663,230
RfR1-T	The Local Better Regulation Office	4,400
RfR1-V	The Civil Nuclear Police Authority	3,000
Total		4,614,661

Departmental Temporary Employment

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which companies were used by his Department and its predecessor for providing temporary staff since its establishment; and what the value of contracts with each such company was. [229078]

Mr. McFadden: Central records for 1999 show payments made on a transactional basis to providers of temporary staff. These records, broken down by financial year and where applicable, by category of temporary staff, have been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Further information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Members Interests

Adam Price: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether the Secretary of State has declared his relevant interests to the Permanent Secretary in his Department. [234352]

Mr. McFadden: Yes.

Non-profit Making Associations

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform whether he plans to unite social enterprises into a national organisation; and if he will make a statement. [233111]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The Social Enterprise Coalition (SEC) was established in 2002 with the backing of the (then) DTI. SEC is the national representative body for all social enterprises, bringing together member bodies from across the sector including Co-operatives UK, the Development Trust Association, Social Firms UK and regional social enterprise networks. SEC represents over 10,000 social enterprises across the UK, providing them with a collective voice. SEC is one of the Cabinet Office's strategic partners, and received core funding as part of this. SEC are a valued partner of Government, raising the profile of social enterprise and building capacity and encouraging co-operation across the sector.

Political Levy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what state funding trades unions receive to assist with the cost of running 10-yearly ballots on their political funds; and what guidelines there are on the literature that may be sent with ballot papers. [233544]

Mr. McFadden: There is no state funding to unions to help them meet the cost of running political fund ballots. There are no statutory guidelines on the literature that may be posted out with ballot papers, though the law provides that those entitled to vote must be able to do so without interference or constraint.

Post Offices: Closures

Bob Spink: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post office branches were open in Castle Point in each year since 1990. [234286]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, Managing Director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postage Stamps

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what oversight role the Shareholder Executive for Royal Mail has in the issue of postage stamps. [233170]

Mr. McFadden: Decisions relating to operational matters, which include decisions relating to Royal Mail's postage stamps, are the direct responsibility of the company's management.

It is not the role of the Shareholder Executive to involve itself in company decisions on the issue of postage stamps. The Department's Postal Policy Unit which is separate from the Shareholder Executive does, however, have a representative on Royal Mail's Stamps Advisory Committee.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will assess whether the introduction of self-adhesive stamps in 2001 has led to an increase in the number of letters received at sorting offices without stamps. [233867]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many unprocessed housing benefit applications there were at the end of each quarter in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the lowest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [231084]

(2) how many unprocessed council tax benefit applications there were at the end of each quarter in each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the lowest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231076]

Kitty Ussher: The available information for the total number of housing benefit and council tax benefit claims outstanding per quarter by local authority has been placed in the Library.

Council Tax Benefits

Adam Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much council tax benefit subsidy was paid to local authorities in *(a)* England, *(b)* Wales and *(c)* Scotland in each year since 1999. [234329]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the table.

Council tax benefit subsidy paid to local authorities: Great Britain

£ million (nominal terms)

	England	Wales	Scotland
1999-2000	1,888	99	278
2000-01	1,909	109	280
2001-02	1,978	113	286
2002-03	2,184	120	294
2003-04	2,518	130	307
2004-05	2,948	156	345
2005-06	3,118	170	354
2006-07	3,276	178	359
2007-08	3,375	184	353

Notes:

1. Information sourced from local authority claims for council tax benefit subsidy.
2. Figures for 2006-07 and 2007-08 are not yet fully audited, and represent provisional out-turn for the year.

Departmental Responsibilities

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what speaking engagements *(a)* he and his predecessor and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have attended in the last 12 months; and at whose invitation. [230085]

James Purnell: This information requested is not readily available and could be supplied only at a disproportionate cost to this Department. Attendance at speaking engagements by Ministers is undertaken in line with the guidance and principles set out in the ministerial code.

Disability Living Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of those receiving the mobility component of disability living allowance and declaring *(a)* Parkinson's disease, *(b)* renal disorders, *(c)* skin diseases, *(d)* stroke-related conditions and *(e)* other debilitating conditions have had their awards reassessed in the last 12 months. [230176]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available.

Employment and Support Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington on 20 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 6-7, how many of the additional staff recruited to administer the employment and support allowance will be customer-facing; how many will work on a *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time basis; how many will be on (i) fixed term and (ii) permanent contracts; in which offices they will work; and from what regions they have been recruited. [230098]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Hayes and Harlington on 20th October 2008, Official Report, columns 6-7, how many of the additional staff recruited to administer the employment and support allowance will be customer-facing; how many will work on an (a) full-time and (b) part-time basis; how many will be on (i) fixed term and (ii) permanent contracts; in which offices they will be working; and from what regions they have been recruited. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus has not recruited additional staff specifically to administer Employment and Support Allowance. We have, however, recruited additional customer facing staff so that experienced staff could be released to undertake the training required to deliver Employment and Support Allowance. In total 2125 people were recruited. This breaks down into:

Jobcentre Plus offices: 818

Contact Centres: 325

Benefit processing: 982

Information broken down in to full and part-time or contract type could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

A breakdown by Region/Country is included the table below.

	Contact centres	Benefit processing	Jobcentre plus offices
Yorkshire and the Humber	15	86	70
West Midlands	16	122	125
Wales	0	30	74
South West	32	100	0
South East	0	148	40
Scotland	35	133	141
North West	153	112	97
North East	10	92	81
London	0	44	79
East Midlands	53	40	49
East of England	11	75	62
Total	325	982	818

All Employment and Support Allowance claims will be taken in one of the six Contact Centres that will handle Employment and Support Allowance customers' claims. This accounts for Wales, South East and London showing 0 for Employment and Support Allowance Contact Centres.

I hope this information is helpful.

Employment: Health

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Government plans to publish its response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the working population; and if he will make a statement. [234062]

Mr. McNulty: We are not yet in a position to confirm the publication date of the Government's response to Dame Carol Black's review of the health of the working age population.

We expect to publish the response by the end of the year.

Housing Benefit

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit in respect of tenants of local authority-owned properties in each month in 2007-08; and how much has been paid in each month in 2008-09 to date. [234343]

Kitty Ussher: Monthly housing benefit expenditure information in respect of local authority tenants is not available.

The provisional out-turn for 2007-08 housing benefit expenditure in respect of local authority tenants is £5,452 million. The provisional out-turn for the total housing benefit expenditure for the same period is £15,732 million.

Information for 2008-09 is currently not available.

Notes:

1. Information sourced from local authority claims for housing revenue account subsidy and housing benefit subsidy.

2. Figures are not yet audited, and represent provisional out-turn for the year.

3. Figures are total amounts paid to beneficiaries, irrespective of the source of funding, and include benefit spending reimbursed by DWP, spending on rent rebates financed within local authorities' housing revenue accounts, and benefit spending financed from local authorities' general funds.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the national average number of days taken by local authorities to process new housing benefit claims was in the latest period for which figures are available; and which 10 local authorities took the *(a)* most and *(b)* least average time to process such claims. [234349]

Kitty Ussher: The national average number of calendar days taken by local authorities to process new housing benefit claims was 27 days in 2007-08.

The 10 local authorities that took the most time to process such claims in 2007-08 were: Weymouth and Portland, Newcastle upon Tyne, London borough of Hounslow, Blyth Valley, Blackpool, London borough of Ealing, East Devon, Rother, Luton, and Isle of Anglesey.

The 10 local authorities that took the least time to process such claims in 2007-08 were: St Albans, South Norfolk, Maidstone, Crawley, Tendring, South Lanarkshire, Fenland, Sedgemoor, Chiltern, and Cannock Chase.

Notes:

1. Housing benefit claim processing times are measured in calendar days from the day a claim is received to the date a decision is made.

2. Claim processing performance data are supplied to DWP by local authorities and is un-audited.

3. Not all local authorities provide all four quarters worth of data—where a local authority has not provided data in a particular quarter, the data they have provided are multiplied to cover the appropriate period; this is then used to calculate the national average.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of non-means tested awards of incapacity benefit had a duration of *(a)* less than 13 weeks, *(b)* between 13 weeks and 28 weeks, *(c)* between 28 weeks and one year, *(d)* between one and two years, *(e)* between two and three years and *(f)* more than three years in the most recent period for which figures are available. [224155]

Jonathan Shaw: Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance are wholly non-means tested benefits. The available information is in the following table.

Proportions of incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance claims by duration

	February 2008 (percentage)
Below 13 weeks	4.8
13 to 28 weeks	4.9
28 weeks to one year	5.6
One to two years	8.9
Two to three years	7.1
Three years and over	68.7

Notes:

1. Percentages are rounded to one decimal place.

2. Durations refer to the latest award only.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate100 per cent. WPLS

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what alternative financial support will be available to drug users who have had their access to out-of-work benefits restricted for failing to complete drug treatment under the terms of the Government's Drug Strategy 2008 to 2011. [234554]

Mr. McNulty: The 2008 drug strategy "Drugs: protecting families and communities" published in February, gave a commitment to explore the case for introducing a new regime which provides more tailored and personalised support than that which is currently provided by the existing incapacity benefit and jobseeker's allowance regime and that in return for benefits payments, claimants will have a responsibility to move successfully through treatment and into employment.

A new regime for problem drug users was proposed in the welfare reform Green Paper—"No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility", Cm 7363, which was published in July.

The public consultation has recently closed and we are currently considering representations received. We will respond to the consultation in due course.

Income Support

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed income support applications there were *(a)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and *(b)* in total at the end of each quarter of each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [230479]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for income support applications in each quarter of each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231033]

Mr. McNulty: From 2003 to 2006 the lowest geographical area for which figures are available was at a district level. From 2006 to date the lowest geographical area for which figures are available is at Benefit Delivery Centre (BDC) level.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Income Support: Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number and proportion of lone parents affected by the changes to the eligibility rules for income support coming into effect in November 2008; who will have moved into *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time work within (i) three, (ii) six, (iii) nine, (iv) 12, (v) 18 and (vi) 24 months of the changes coming into effect (A) in the UK and (B) broken down by the smallest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [230282]

Kitty Ussher: Estimates are not available broken down by geographical area or as to whether the work moved into will be part-time or full-time.

Based on internal analysis carried out for departmental planning purposes, it has been estimated that of the approximately 280,000 lone parents on income support affected by the changes which start to be implemented from November 2008 (i.e. whose youngest child is aged 12 or over from November 2008, 10 or over from October 2009, or seven or over from October 2010):

around 20,000 will move into work immediately after being affected by the changes;

a further 15,000 will move into work within three months of being affected by the changes;

a further 20,000 will move into work within six months of being affected by the changes;

a further 10,000 will move into work within nine months of being affected by the changes;

a further 10,000 will move into work within 12 months of being affected by the changes;

a further 5,000 will move into work within 18 months of being affected by the changes; and,

a further 5,000 will move into work within 24 months of being affected by the changes.

These estimates include those lone parents who would have entered employment anyway. They relate only to existing income support lone parent claimants when the changes are introduced from November 2008.

The estimates are dependent on a number of assumptions made by the Department including around the destinations of lone parents on income support after the changes come into effect, their behaviour on other benefits and the destinations of lone parents when they leave benefits.

Some lone parents are exempt from these changes and will still be able to receive income support. These include lone parents: who are in receipt of carer's allowance; have a child for whom they are receiving the middle or higher rate care component of disability living allowance; who are fostering.

We have commissioned a comprehensive evaluation of the changes and will monitor their impact over time. These estimates are sensitive to the particular assumptions made and will be fully tested in the evaluation.

Jobcentre Plus: Breastfeeding

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 15 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 325W, on Jobcentre Plus: breastfeeding, if he will direct Jobcentre Plus offices to adopt policies of welcoming breastfeeding mothers. [231951]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves, dated November 2008:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your question, pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Aylesbury of 15th July 2008 Official Report column 325W on Jobcentre Plus, asking whether he will direct Jobcentre Plus offices to adopt policies that welcome breastfeeding mothers. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

My predecessor, Lesley Strathie asked for a review to take place and have new guidance communicated to our offices. This review will be completed by the end of this year.

Jobcentre Plus: Closures

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which Jobcentre Plus offices in which regions are planned to be closed in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [230434]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking which Jobcentre Plus offices, in which regions are planned to be closed in each of the next five years. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

There are three Jobcentres which are currently open to the public and are planned to be closed in the next year. These are all within our London Region. The Jobcentres are: Brixton Hill, Feltham and Orpington and all three have been subject to a rigorous consultation process. Other than these, no decisions have yet been taken on further closures.

Jobcentre Plus: Lost Property

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many reported incidents of missing post from Jobcentre Plus clients have been received by Jobcentre Plus staff *(a)* nationally and *(b)* at the Preston office in the last 12 months; [225752]

(2) how many items of missing post sent by Jobcentre Plus clients to Jobcentre Plus offices in the latest period for which figures are available have been located; [225761]

(3) what searches have been made to recover missing items of sensitive and confidential mail sent by the constituent of the hon. Member for West Lancashire, Ms Hilary Thompson, to the Jobcentre Plus office in Preston; what steps he is taking to make system changes to protect clients' data; and what assessment has been made of how Ms Thompson's items were initially lost. [225762]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 13 October 2008]:* The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to respond to your questions asking:

how many reported incidents of missing post from Jobcentre plus clients have been received by Jobcentre plus staff (a) nationally and (b) at the Preston office in the last 12 months.

how many items of missing post sent by jobcentre plus clients to jobcentre plus offices in the latest period for which figures are available have been located.

what searches have been made to recover missing items of sensitive and confidential mail sent by the constituent of the hon. Member for West Lancashire Ms Hilary Thompson to the jobcentre plus office in Preston; what steps he is taking to make system changes to protect clients' data; and what assessment has been made of how Ms Thompson's items were initially lost.

This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive.

Information regarding the amount of missing post reported and located is not available and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Jobcentre Plus treats customer data seriously and introduced new procedures last year in order to ensure tighter security across the business. The new procedures ensure the utmost safety of our data and enable staff to understand their position and take the most appropriate and correct action.

The postal contracts Jobcentre Plus has in place are designed to provide for mail to be securely delivered to Jobcentre Plus sites. These services are reviewed and tested in order to ensure the service is both secure and effective. Our day to day security measures relating to our post opening procedures include the following:

mail is processed in a separate and secure location designated for DWP mail;

post opening is monitored by CCTV;

there must be two or more employees processing mail; and

there is a signing in/out register for processing staff and recording of valuable items and life documents.

The postal contract enables us to query any missing post and for a thorough search to be performed if necessary.

Given the personal nature of issues about your constituent, Hilary Thompson, my predecessor, Lesley Strathie has written to you separately regarding the issues you have raised. She explained that we have located two of the three items that your constituent reported as missing. However, despite a full investigation by ourselves and Haden, our post opening contractors, including a full office search, we have not been able to locate the third item of post.

Jobcentre Plus: Training

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on training Jobcentre Plus employees in each year since 1 April 2002, broken down by region. [230285]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Jobseeker's Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how long it took on average to process new jobseeker's allowance claims in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 12 months. [232280]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how long it took, on average, to process new Jobseeker's Allowance claims in each Jobcentre Plus district in each of the last 12 months. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The time it takes to process Jobseeker's Allowance applications is measured by counting the average length of time taken to clear all claims processed within a set time period. This measure is referred to as the Average Actual Clearance Time.

The information requested is not available by Jobcentre Plus district because Jobcentre Plus processes Jobseeker's Allowance claims in 70 Benefit Delivery Centres (BDC) across the country.

Tables showing the average processing time (number of days) for Jobseeker's Allowance claims in each of the last 12 months in each BDC have been placed in the Library.

Maternity Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for East Dunbartonshire of 8 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 612-13W, on maternity benefits, what *(a)* advice and *(b)* advance notification the Government received on the increased demand for maternity allowance in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [230235]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Lesley Strathie. I have asked her to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked me to respond to your question on maternity benefits, what *(a)* advice and *(b)* advance notification the Government received on the increased demand for maternity allowance in (i) 2007-08 and (ii) 2008-09. This is a matter which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Maternity Allowance numbers are forecast by trends in the number of births in Great Britain. Past sets of births projections, which are produced by Office for National Statistics have shown a gradual rise in births. As a result Maternity Allowance forecasts predicted that Maternity Allowance claims would increase by around 5%.

During the planning process for the centralisation of Maternity Allowance into four units, staffing numbers required were calculated based on that forecast increase in claims, with some productivity improvements, in line with the challenge faced by the whole organisation. In fact Maternity Allowance claims have increased by nearly a fifth this year.

Although this increase was not forecast, we quickly put plans in place to increase staffing in line with the increase and to ensure work was efficiently distributed across the benefit delivery network. This has ensured arrears of claims which built up earlier in the year are now cleared and we have returned to our normal workload.

Minimum Wage

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what percentage of jobs advertised in jobcentres offered remuneration at the level of the national minimum wage on the latest date for which figures are available. [229298]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide my hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many and what percentage of jobs advertised in Jobcentres were at the National Minimum Wage on the last date for which figures are available. This is something that falls within my responsibilities as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

All vacancies handled by Jobcentre Plus are checked to ensure they meet National Minimum Wage requirements. Therefore, all vacancies advertised by Jobcentre Plus meet the requirements of the National Minimum Wage. We do not however, record information on the number or percentage of vacancies that are advertised specifically at the National Minimum Wage.

National Insurance: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance number registrations there were for non-UK citizens in each year since 2004, broken down by nationality. [225976]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The available information has been placed in the Library.

National Insurance: Immigrants

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2220W, on national insurance: immigrants, what steps have been taken to contact the individuals whose names have been used for the registration of a national insurance number which was then used by another person in the 1,873 cases referred to; and how many of those individuals have been contacted to date. [224534]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 October 2008]:* In the 1,873 cases concerned, it was the national insurance number (NINO), not the name of the genuine holder to whom the NINO was allocated, that was quoted to the Security Industry Authority.

From DWP investigations into this misuse of NINOs, there is no evidence that the identities of the genuine holders have been hijacked. Therefore, none of the individuals has been contacted.

The system of checks introduced by the Security Industry Authority with the United Kingdom Border Agency in 2007 provides additional protection against identity fraud by people wishing to work in the security industry in breach of immigration laws.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2220W, on national insurance: immigrants, how many of the 3,275 cases have been referred to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigation Service for investigation; how many prosecutions have been brought; and if he will make a statement. [224535]

Mr. McNulty: Following the action already taken by the Security Industry Authority (SIA) and the United Kingdom Border Agency to deal with persons suspected of working in the security industry in breach of immigration laws, 468 of the 3,275 cases where names or national insurance numbers given to the SIA were false have been referred to the Department for Work and Pensions Fraud Investigation Service. So far, no evidence of criminal activity against the DWP has been identified.

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2220W, on national insurance: immigrants, how many of 1,873 national insurance numbers which existed on the Department's Customer Information System but which were registered in a different name had been issued since July 2006. [224536]

Mr. McNulty: Of the 1,873 national insurance numbers provided to the Security Industry Authority where the name did not correspond to the name held on the Department's Customer Information System, all had been issued to genuine individuals and 35 had been issued after July 2006.

Pathways to Work

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of individuals with each type of incapacity who have been through the Pathways to Work programme and subsequently gained employment were still employed after six months in each month since the programme began; and if he will make a statement. [230482]

Mr. McNulty: The information is not available.

Pension Credit: Overpayments

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many cases of pension credit overpayment his Department has taken to court to seek recovery of payments in each *(a)* month of 2008-09 to date and *(b)* year from 2003-04 to 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [230483]

Ms Rosie Winterton: Information is not available on the number of civil actions taken in respect of pension credit cases.

It is not normal practice to pursue enforcement of an overpayment through civil proceedings where a customer is in receipt of benefit. Typically people over pension age would be in receipt of benefit from which compulsory deductions can be taken to repay an overpayment.

Where the customer is in receipt of benefit, deductions from benefit will be arranged compulsorily to recover an outstanding debt.

In the exceptional circumstances where a person is no longer in receipt of benefit we would normally seek an agreement to pay by instalments. If no such agreement can be reached, then only as a last resort would civil proceedings be considered.

Pensioners: Council Tax Benefits

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of pensioner households in *(a)* Bexley and *(b)* Greater London claiming council tax benefit. [233764]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The most recent available information is in the table.

Number of pensioner households receiving council tax benefit

	London	London borough of Bexley
August 2007	259,670	7,480

Notes:
1. Data refer to benefit units, which may be a single person or a couple.
2. The figures have been rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Figures for any non-responding authorities have been estimated.
4. Council tax benefit totals exclude any second adult rebate cases.
5. For this request "pensioners" are those who are aged 60 and over.
6. Data for Greater London refer to the London GOR.

Source:
Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit Management Information System Quarterly 100 per cent. caseload stock-count taken in August 2007

Pensioners: Personal Savings

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of the number of pensioners who were assessed as having savings insufficient for their retirement in each year since 1997. [226173]

Ms Rosie Winterton: It is the responsibility of individuals to determine the level of income in retirement they want. This will take account of their circumstances, their ability to save and their expectations for their retirement.

For most people, income in retirement will come from a combination of the basic State Pension and a second pension or savings. Where that is not the case, the Government provides a minimum guaranteed income through the guarantee credit element of pension credit (previously the minimum income guarantee and income support for pensioners).

The pension reforms being introduced in the Pensions Act 2007 and the current Pension Reform Bill will provide better access and coverage of the state provision, providing a solid foundation for private saving.

Pensions Disability and Carers Service

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will place in the Library, a copy of organisational charts relating to the structure of the Pensions Disability and Carers Service below Board level. [219498]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The following answer was provided to the hon. Member on 17 September 2008, however, due to a procedural error was not published in the *Official Report*.

The answer is as follows:

The Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) was set up on 1 April 2008. To date we have appointed a chief executive, Terry Moran, and all of the executive and non-executive board directors. Details were published in the 2008-09 Business Plan for the Agency which is available in the House Library.

The structure below board level currently remains as it was for the two former agencies, the Pension Service and the Disability and Carers Service. Work is currently under way to agree the new structure for the new Agency and we expect that to be finalised in the autumn.

Redundancy: Females

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of people made redundant in each of the last 12 months were women, broken down by *(a)* profession, *(b)* region and *(c)* age. [231656]

Kevin Brennan: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Karen Dunnell, dated 31 October 2008:

As National Statistician, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question on what proportion of people made redundant in each of the last 12 months were women, broken down by (a) profession, (b) region and (c) age. (231656)

Statistics of people made redundant in each month is not available; however the Labour Force Survey (LFS) does collect data on those made redundant in the last three months.

Each of the tables provided estimate the proportion of those made redundant in the three months prior to their LFS interview who were women aged 16+, for the last four calendar quarters.

Table 1 gives those made redundant by the occupation they were made redundant from. Table 2 gives those made redundant by their region of residence at the time of interview. Table 3 gives those made redundant by age at the time of interview.

The estimates in the tables are derived from the LFS microdata weighted to estimates published in 2007. They are not entirely consistent with figures published in the monthly Labour Market Statistics First Release which are weighted using more up to date population estimates. As with any survey, results are subject to a margin of uncertainty. The sample sizes supporting these estimates at the level of detail requested are very small and therefore should be treated with extreme caution.

Table 1: Proportion of those made redundant[1] who were women aged 16 and over by the occupation[2] they were made redundant from, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Total[3]	Managers and Senior Officials	Professional Occupations	Associate Professionals and Technical Occupations	Administrative and Secretarial Occupations
Q2	2008	42	31	*	31	68
Q1	2008	38	—	*	43	63
Q4	2007	40	46	*	*	92
Q3	2007	42	29	33	58	85

Percentage

		Skilled Trades Occupations	Personal Service Occupations	Sales and Customer Service Occupations	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	Elementary Occupations
Q2	2008	*	100	85	36	28
Q1	2008	*	*	*	*	*
Q4	2007	*	*	57	*	*

Percentage

		Skilled Trades Occupations	*Personal Service Occupations*	*Sales and Customer Service Occupations*	*Process, Plant and Machine Operatives*	*Elementary Occupations*
Q3	2007	*	*	75	29	23

* Sample too small to provide a reliable estimate
— = *Zero*
[1] Includes those who have been made redundant in the three months prior to their Labour Force Survey interview.
[2] Occupation in main job.
[3] Includes those who did not state the occupation they worked in.
Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey (ONS)

Table 2: Proportion of those made redundant[1] who were women aged 16 and over by region[2], United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Total[3]	*North East*	*North West*	*Yorkshire and Humberside*	*East Midlands*	*West Midlands*	*Eastern*
Q2	2008	42	40	37	42	46	50	39
Q1	2008	30	52	20	19	22	34	28
Q4	2007	40	35	35	29	34	28	66
Q3	2007	42	45	34	43	49	41	49

Percentage

		London	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*Scotland*	*Northern Ireland*
Q2	2008	33	39	30	38	60	53
Q1	2008	27	57	29	21	36	*
Q4	2007	35	48	38	45	43	29
Q3	2007	20	56	41	35	32	53

* Sample too small to provide a reliable estimate
— = *Zero*
[1] Includes those who have been made redundant in the three months prior to their Labour Force Survey interview.
[2] Government office region of residence.
[3] Includes those who did not state their region of residence.
Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey (ONS)

Table 3: Proportion of those made redundant[1] who were women aged 16 and over by age, United Kingdom, not seasonally adjusted

Percentage

		Total[2]	*16-17*	*18-24*	*25-34*	*35-49*	*50-59*	*60+*
Q2	2008	42	*	49	37	43	41	30
Q1	2008	30	*	28	28	37	23	34
Q4	2007	40	—	42	40	45	39	21
Q3	2007	42	47	41	40	42	43	45

* Sample too small to provide a reliable estimate
— = Zero
[1] Includes those who have been made redundant in the three months prior to their Labour Force Survey interview.
[2] Includes those who did not state their age.
Note:
The estimates exclude people in most types of communal establishments (e.g. hotels, boarding houses, hostels, mobile home sites etc.)
Source:
Labour Force Survey (ONS)

Security Guards: Personal Records

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information is provided to his Department by the Security Industry Authority on the past and present employment of security guards; and what estimate he has made of the level of benefit fraud amongst workers in the security industry in the last three years. [231743]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* Earlier this year the Security Industry Authority (SIA) provided the DWP with the available details of non-EEA security industry licence holders whose licences had been revoked following the recent exercise to check the immigration status of non-EEA nationals who had obtained SIA licences prior to the introduction of routine right to work checks on 2 July 2007. The information passed to DWP included details provided to the SIA by the licence applicants such as name, address, date of birth and national insurance number.

Where DWP considered that the information given appeared to indicate a possible element of benefit fraud, the details were referred through to the DWP Fraud Investigation Service (FIS). Inquiries are still ongoing but no evidence of fraud has been found to date.

The Department has not made any estimate of the level of benefit fraud among workers in the security industry. However, since April 2008 DWP FIS have conducted nine fraud drives relating to the security industry. These are still ongoing.

Social Fund

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in each of the last 10 years for which information is available. [226189]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is in the following table:

Crisis loan applications in Great Britain

	Average actual clearance time (working days)
1998-99	1.2
1999-2000	1.2
2000-01	1.2
2001-02	1.2
2002-03	1.2
2003-04	1.3
2004-05	1.3
2005-06	1.4
2006-07	1.5
2007-08	1.7

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual crisis loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual crisis loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each year, not on applications received during that year.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average length of time was for decisions to be taken on crisis loan applications in *(a)* the last two quarters and *(b)* each month of 2008-09 to date or the most recent period for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [233273]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the tables.

Crisis loan applications in Great Britain in the last two quarters

Quarter	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
April 2008 to June 2008	1.9
July 2008 to September 2008	1.8

Crisis loan applications in Great Britain in the last six months

2008	*Average actual clearance time (working days)*
April	1.9
May	1.8
June	2.0
July	1.9
August	1.8
September	1.7

Notes:

1. The clearance time for an individual crisis loan application is measured in whole working days from the date the application is received until the date the decision is taken on whether to make a loan offer, plus, if a loan offer is made, the number of whole working days between receiving the applicant's reply to the offer and the recording of that reply. The minimum clearance time recorded for an individual crisis loan application is one working day, even if the application is cleared immediately.
2. Numbers are based on applications cleared in each period, not on applications received during that period.

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* crisis loan, *(b)* budgeting loan and *(c)* community care grant applications have been received in each (i) month of 2008-09 and (ii) in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [233276]

Kitty Ussher: The information is in the tables.

Applications received in Great Britain each month

Thousand

	Crisis loans	*Budgeting loans*	*Community care grants*
April 2008	214	122	50
May 2008	204	109	43
June 2008	218	124	49
July 2008	236	132	53
August 2008	219	109	46
September 2008	236	129	50

Applications received in Great Britain each year

Thousand

	Crisis loans	*Budgeting loans*	*Community care grants*
2005-06	1,366	1,640	578
2006-07	1,448	1,750	598
2007-08	2,105	1,552	543

Source:

DWP Social Fund Policy, Budget and Management Information System.

Social Fund: Funerals

Daniel Kawczynski: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps the Government is taking to ensure that funeral payments from the Social Fund are made as quickly as possible. [227831]

Kitty Ussher: The administration of the social Fund is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter form Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps the Government is taking to ensure funeral payments from the Social Fund are made as quickly as possible. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We aim to process all claims as quickly as possible. For funeral payments there is an internal target of 16 working days. The actual average clearance time for September was 14.51 days with the year to date figure at 13.63 days. We believe this is well within the period funeral directors would allow for settlement of the bill.

Jobcentre Plus has in recent years introduced a number of initiatives to help funeral directors. This includes allowing payments to be made before the funeral is held where a funeral director is willing to provide an invoice and there are no other outstanding issues. We have recently amended our guidance to make sure staff are aware of this provision. From November 2007 we have also introduced the facility to allow payments to be made directly into the bank account of the funeral director where the bill had not been paid. Previously the payment had been made by a cheque in the name of the funeral director and sent to the customer for them to pass onto the funeral director.

I hope this information is helpful.

Social Security Benefits

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many unprocessed *(a)* jobseekers allowance, *(b)* pension credit and *(c)* incapacity benefit applications there were in (i) each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available and (ii) in the UK at the end of each quarter in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [230438]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits: Carers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions with reference to point 6.15 in the Welfare Reform Green Paper, No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility, how much carers who move off income support on to modified jobseekers allowance (JSA) will receive, broken down into the basic rate of JSA and carers' premium. [228497]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: Under the proposals in the Green Paper carers who move from income support to a modified jobseeker's allowance would continue to receive the same level of benefit as they currently receive on income support. On current rates they would qualify for £60.50 basic rate jobseeker's allowance (if single and over age 25—different rates apply to couples and those under 25) and £27.75 carer premium. In calculating the amount of jobseeker's allowance, carer's allowance and any other income they may have would be taken into account in exactly the same way as for income support.

Those carers who move from income support to a modified jobseeker's allowance will not see any increase in the level of conditionality under this proposal.

Social Security Benefits: Databases

Paddy Tipping: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he has taken to ensure that databases of those in receipt of benefit are kept up to date; and if he will make a statement. [230979]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 29 October 2008]*: The Department for Work and Pensions makes every effort to ensure that customers' data are accurate, up to date and relevant. We continue to simplify the means by which customers provide information without detriment to the quality of the data, for example through the Tell Us Once initiative which will enable a citizen to report a birth or death to Government only once by securely collecting the information and sharing appropriately with other Government Departments.

We also seek responsible and lawful data sharing to maintain up-to-date information on our customers and ensure that this information is used effectively to make sure customers' benefits are accurate and timely.

Standard of Living

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the findings of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's recent report Growing Unequal? insofar as they apply to the UK. [232159]

Mr. McNulty: The report states that between 2000 and 2005, income inequality and poverty fell faster in the UK than in any other OECD country and that, for the first time since the 1980s, the UK poverty level is below the OECD average.

The report also highlights the importance of policies to encourage more people into work, which reinforces this Government's message that for those who can, work is the best route out of poverty.

We welcome these findings, though accept there is more for us to do. In particular, we remain fully committed to tackling both pensioner poverty and child poverty.

State Retirement Pensions

Mr. Hepburn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Jarrow constituency, *(b)* South Tyneside, *(c)* the North East and *(d)* the UK have received the basic state pension in each year since its inception. [231418]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available information is in the table.

	Number getting basic state pension
Jarrow parliamentary constituency	
September 1999	15,600
March 2000	15,500
September 2000	15,700
March 2001	15,300
September 2001	15,500
March 2002	15,800
September 2002	15,700
March 2003	15,700
September 2003	15,900
March 2004	15,900
September 2004	15,900
March 2005	16,100
September 2005	16,400
March 2006	16,600
September 2006	16,800
March 2007	16,700
September 2007	16,800
South Tyneside local authority	
September 1999	30,000
March 2000	29,900
September 2000	30,100
March 2001	29,500
September 2001	29,900
March 2002	30,000
September 2002	30,000
March 2003	29,700
September 2003	29,900
March 2004	29,900
September 2004	29,800
March 2005	30,000

	Number getting basic state pension
September 2005	30,400
March 2006	30,300
September 2006	30,600
March 2007	30,500
September 2007	30,700
North East Government office region	
September 1999	464,300
March 2000	468,000
September 2000	470,400
March 2001	469,300
September 2001	471,600
March 2002	470,500
September 2002	471,600
March 2003	471,100
September 2003	473,300
March 2004	473,500
September 2004	477,900
March 2005	478,500
September 2005	480,800
March 2006	482,700
September 2006	485,900
March 2007	490,100
September 2007	493,700
Great Britain	
March 1995	9,460,300
September 1995	9,539,200
March 1996	9,566,400
September 1996	9,671,400
March 1997	9,691,300
September 1997	9,791,500
March 1998	9,830,200
September 1998	n/a
March 1999	9,929,400
September 1999	10,003,800
March 2000	10,024,200
September 2000	10,060,200
March 2001	10,077,800
September 2001	10,136,800
March 2002	10,139,700
September 2002	10,197,500
March 2003	10,225,900
September 2003	10,291,600
March 2004	10,313,500
September 2004	10,408,900
March 2005	10,450,300
September 2005	10,502,100
March 2006	10,513,800
September 2006	10,581,700
March 2007	10,659,900
September 2007	10,778,700

n/a = Not available

Notes:

1. Data are taken from a 5 per cent. extract of Pension Service Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pension Longitudinal Study.

2. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.

3. Earlier information relating to the number of people in GB receiving retirement pension (not basic alone) is available in the annual publication "Social Security Statistics" which is available in the House Library.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate

State Retirement Pensions: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals received late payment of their state pension in the last 12 months in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire. [231100]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The information requested is not available.

Unemployment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely level of unemployment on 1 January 2009. [230630]

Mr. McNulty: By long-standing convention the Department does not predict future levels of unemployment, but we have been planning for the impact of potentially higher levels of jobseeker's allowance claims in the coming months.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 225138, tabled on 3 October 2008, on the number of national insurance registrations granted since 2004. [233174]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 3 November 2008, *Official Report,* columns 4-5W.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to Question 228031 for named day answer on 20 October 2008 on the re-organisation of Jobcentre Plus in the South East of England, tabled by the hon. Member for Aylesbury. [234305]

Mr. McNulty: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 4 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 261W.

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply substantively to question 228037, on Sunley House, Aylesbury, tabled by the hon. Member for Aylesbury on 14 October 2008 for answer on 20 October 2008. [234511]

Jonathan Shaw: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 4 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 261W.

TREASURY

Arni Mathiesen

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he last met the Icelandic Trade Minister. [233096]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings with their counterparts in other countries and with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Bank Notes

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the Bank of England plans to produce bilingual banknotes as part of its Welsh language plan. [234330]

Ian Pearson: The Bank of England has no current plans to produce bilingual banknotes.

Bank Services

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what action in relation to the activities of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited the UK authorities took prior to the collapse of the company. [227628]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 16 October 2008]:* Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander's UK subsidiary was regulated by the FSA, who was also in regular contact with the Icelandic regulator, FME.

As Kaupthing's position deteriorated the tripartite authorities worked intensively to find solutions to the firm's problems. On 8 October the FSA decided that Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. no longer met the FSA's threshold conditions and the firm went into administration.

The Government have exercised powers to protect savers' money by transferring Kaupthing's internet savings business, Edge, to ING Direct.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to ensure that all foreign banks taking deposits in the UK *(a)* are covered by British compensation schemes and *(b)* contribute to the costs of those schemes. [233629]

Ian Pearson: All UK subsidiaries of foreign banks and all UK branches of banks from countries outside the European economic area (EEA) which take deposits are already required to participate in the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS).

Under the EC Deposit-guarantee Schemes Directive, UK branches of banks from other EEA states are covered by the bank's home state deposit-guarantee scheme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what discussions he has had with the Isle of Man government on compensation for depositors, bond holders and pension schemes who had money in Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man); [233631]

(2) if he will meet representatives of the Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander (Isle of Man) Action Group. [233755]

Ian Pearson: Arrangements relating to Kaupthing Singer and Freidlånder Isle of Man (KSF IOM) area matter for the Government of the Isle of Man. KSF IOM is not a subsidiary of KSF in the UK, but of the Icelandic parent company. Oversight of KSF IOM is the responsibility of the Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission; and deposits with KSF IOM will be subject to the Isle of Man's Deposit Compensation Scheme.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the transcript of his telephone conversation with the Icelandic Finance Minister on 7 October 2008 about compensation for British depositors in Icelandic banks. [233633]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with their counterparts in other countries and with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what information he received about the *(a)* solvency and *(b)* liquidity of Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited prior to the declaration by the Financial Services Authority (FSA) that it was in default; and what action (i) his Department and (ii) the FSA has taken against the company's assets; [233756]

(2) under whose authority and under what powers the Financial Services Authority (FSA) declared Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited to be in default of its regulatory requirements; and what action *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the FSA took as a consequence; [233757]

(3) for what reason Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Limited was placed in administration; [233758]

(4) what information he had about the financial state of Icelandic banks in the period before September 2008. [233962]

Ian Pearson: The FSA intensified its supervision of deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with firms, more frequent visits and enhanced reporting requirements) from the beginning of 2008. As the economic situation deteriorated during the year and particularly since September, the FSA worked increasingly with the banks concerned. As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Bank of England and HM Treasury of its concerns on a regular basis.

On 8 October the FSA determined that Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. no longer met the FSA's threshold conditions and the firm went into administration. The FSCS was triggered by the FSA as it determined that KSF was unable or likely to be unable to satisfy claims against it. These decisions were taken by the FSA on its own authority under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000 (FSMA).

On the same day, the Treasury, under the Banking (Special Provisions) Act, transferred the deposit book of "Edge" accounts to ING Direct. The transfer of retail deposits was funded by the FSCS and the Treasury. The remainder of KSF was placed into administration following due legal process.

Bank Services: Fees and Charges

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received since January 2008 on the level of *(a)* bank charges and *(b)* credit card charges; and if he will make a statement. [233906]

Ian Pearson: This is a matter for the Office of Fair Trading which is responsible for consumer credit legislation.

Banks: Disclosure of Information

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the minutes of board meetings of banks *(a)* in temporary public ownership and *(b)* recapitalised with public funds will be published. [231700]

Ian Pearson: It is a matter for the management of the banks concerned to release specific business information and updates in line with their regulatory obligations and provide any required disclosures in their audited annual report and accounts.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what transparency regulations govern the operations of *(a)* bank holding companies and *(b)* investment banks in the UK. [231757]

Ian Pearson: The EU has established regulatory standards on transparency of financial reporting for companies (including bank holding companies and banks); and those companies admitted to trading on a regulated market are subject to some additional rules. The standards are set out in directives including the Transparency Directive; Prospectus Directive; Market Abuse Directive; 4th Company Law Directive, 7th Company Law Directive. These directives have been implemented in rules made under the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, and rules made by the FSA, including the Listing Rules, the Prospectus Rules, and the Disclosure and Transparency Rules.

Banks and bank holding companies are also subject to the requirements in Council Directive 86/635/EEC on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions.

This directive has been implemented in the UK in regulations made under the Companies Act 2006, including the Large and Medium-sized Companies and Groups (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 2008. Schedule 2 of those regulations contains provisions relating specifically to banking companies. Parent companies of banking groups must prepare group accounts in accordance with schedule 6 to the regulations, as modified by part 2 of that Schedule.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make it his policy that regulatory standards on transparency of reporting by investment banks and banking entities are no lower in the UK than in other jurisdictions. [231797]

Ian Pearson: The EU has established regulatory standards on transparency of financial reporting for companies; and those companies admitted to trading on a regulated market are subject to some additional rules. The standards are set out in directives such as the Transparency Directive and certain Company Law Directives, and, in relation to banks Council Directive 86/635/EEC on the annual accounts and consolidated accounts of banks and other financial institutions. The UK fully complies with such requirements.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with the Financial Reporting Council over reporting standards for banks; and if he will bring forward proposals to strengthen the financial reporting regime for *(a)* investment banks, *(b)* hedge funds and *(c)* other financial institutions. [231798]

Ian Pearson: The Government have been, and continue to be, in close and regular discussion with other governments, international organisations and regulators to seek consistency and appropriateness of financial reporting regimes. The Government believe that global problems demand global solutions and that a UK-only approach to the setting of International Financial Reporting Standards (IFRS) would not be an appropriate course of action.

Banks: Government Shareholding

Mr. Bone: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a formal condition for the purchase in Lloyds TSB plc, HBOS plc and RBS Group plc by the Government of £28 billion in common stock is a commitment immediately to restore and maintain the availability and active marketing of competitively priced mortgage lending, other than in the non-conforming market, over the next three years at a level at least equivalent to that of 2007. [229575]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the statement made by the Chancellor on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 540-41.

Banks: Incentives

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether directors of banks participating in the recapitalisation scheme are entitled to receive bonuses in the form of shares in the present financial year. [228817]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 21 October 2008]:* As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the capitalisation scheme. The Government expect that no cash bonuses will be paid to board members in the current year.

In the current year, no bonus will be available for board members in RBS and HBOS, whereas for Lloyds stock bonuses are permissible subject to prohibition on sale until 2009.

British Bankers Association

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what meetings *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department and *(c)* officials in his Department have had with the British Bankers Association in each week since June 2007; what the (i) location and (ii) duration of each meeting was; whether a record of each meeting was kept; who attended each meeting; what the cost was of each meeting, broken down by (A) administrative and (B) other costs; and if he will make a statement. [233904]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials meet representatives of the British Bankers Association to discuss a wide range of issues as need arises. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings.

Cheshire Building Society

Mr. Fallon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he plans to take to protect the deposits of investors in the *(a)* Cheshire and *(b)* Derbyshire Building Society following the takeover by the Nationwide Building Society; whether the £50,000 guarantee for individual deposits in financial institutions will apply to deposits in the (i) Cheshire, (ii) Derbyshire and (iii) Nationwide Building Society after the takeover as it did before the takeover; and if he will make a statement. [231628]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* On the merger of two or more building societies, the remaining society is a single authorised entity and the £50,000 compensation limit applies in relation to each individual investor for the total of their deposits in that society. This is irrespective of the number of predecessor societies in which they held accounts or of the trading names under which the accounts are subsequently held. The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is responsible for making the rules of the financial services compensation scheme (FSCS). The FSA is considering whether the compensation scheme should continue to offer compensation on a per authorised entity basis or should move to a per brand (trading name) or per account basis, and the treatment of temporary high balances (for example those arising after a building society merger). If appropriate, the FSA will consult on specific proposals in due course.

Child Trust Fund

Dr. Cable: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the planned expenditure on the Child Trust Fund is in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [234127]

Mr. Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his latest estimate is of the cost to the public purse of the Child Trust Fund Scheme in each year from 2007-08 to 2020-21; and if he will make a statement. [233604]

Ian Pearson: Actual and forecasts of expenditure and administrative costs for the years 2007-08 to 2012-13 are published in tables 8 and 9 of the 2008 Child Trust Fund Annual Statistical Report published on 6 November 2008, available at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/statistical-report-2008.pdf.

The Government have not published CTF forecasts beyond 2012-13.

Delivery Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the *(a)* headcount and *(b)* budget of the Prime Minister's Delivery Unit is for 2008-09. [233382]

Yvette Cooper: The PMDU budget for 2008-09 is £4.17 million.

The headcount at the end of October was 38.

Departmental Catering

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many canteens his Department has; what their names are; whether they serve food made from genetically modified ingredients; and if he will place in the Library copies of the menus for each canteen from the latest week for which menus are available. [233400]

Angela Eagle: There is a single staff restaurant in 1 Horse Guards Road which serves occupants of both this building and 100 Parliament Street. It has not been named.

GM ingredients are not used in food served in the restaurant.

Copies of the latest menu have been placed in the Library.

Departmental Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what types of financial information are stored on his Department's COINS database. [233398]

Yvette Cooper: The COINS database holds financial information on Departments' spending plans, in-year forecasts and outturn. Each of these is reported against the budgetary, parliamentary estimates and national accounts frameworks, with outturn additionally reported against the resource accounts framework.

Equitable Life Assurance Society

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent steps the Government has taken to reduce the possibility of circumstances similar to those which affected Equitable Life from recurring. [228595]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 22 October 2008]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1000W.

Financial Services Authority

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to make the Financial Services Authority more accessible to the general public; what recent discussions he has had with the Board of the Financial Services Authority on this issue; what recent representations he has received on this issue; and if he will make a statement. [233898]

Ian Pearson: The Financial Services Authority (FSA) is independent from the Government although subject to the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. The FSA is already accessible to the general public in a number of ways. These include the FSA's consumer helpline, the FSA's consumer website (Moneymadeclear) and the FSA's annual public meeting.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to review the effectiveness of the Financial Services Authority; and if he will make a statement. [233903]

Ian Pearson: I refer the hon. Member to the statement on financial markets made by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 22-23, which announced that Adair Turner, the chairman of the FSA, had been asked to make recommendations for reforms.

Financial Services Compensation Scheme

Anne Main: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what payments are owed or outstanding to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme from *(a)* Bradford and Bingley and *(b)* Northern Rock. [231782]

Ian Pearson: Details of Bradford and Bingley's liabilities to the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) in respect of the sale of the company's retail deposit book to Abbey National plc were set out in a written ministerial statement made by the Chancellor of the Exchequer on 13 October 2008.

Northern Rock is a member of the FSCS and so will be liable for the levies to cover the FSCS's costs in the same way as other deposit taking institutions. It is not possible to estimate these liabilities at this point.

Foreign Relations: Iceland

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what requests for help and support the government of Iceland made *(a)* to him and *(b)* to the EU in the six months before 7 October 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233761]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers and officials have meetings and discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

As regards requests for help that the Government of Iceland may have made to the EU, this is a matter for the Government of Iceland.

Inheritance Tax

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues on the application of inheritance tax to individuals who are married under the provisions of Sharia law outside the UK. [233449]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 99W.

Inheritance tax spouse exemption is dependent on the transferor and transferee being party to a marriage that the law of the country in which it takes place recognises as legally valid. That is the case for all marriages outside the UK and the relevant conditions depend on the law of the relevant country.

Local Government Finance: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will review the balance between revenues raised and public expenditure in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Dacorum against the balances of other local authorities of a similar size and profile; and if he will make a statement. [233489]

Angela Eagle: Data on revenue raised from most taxes is not available at local authority level. The Government do not publish public expenditure data disaggregated any further than country and region level.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Malins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Chief Secretary to the Treasury plans to reply to the letters from the hon. Member for Woking of 28 June, 28 July and 19 September 2008 on Nina Hassall. [234143]

Yvette Cooper: I replied to the hon. Member on 29 September and am sending him a copy of my letter.

National Insurance

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to change the rate of national insurance contributions. [233493]

Mr. Timms: The Government keep all tax and benefit rates under review as part of the Budget process. National insurance contribution rates are normally announced at the pre-Budget report.

However, the Government have already announced that they intend to increase the price of class 3 contributions to ensure that changes allowing some individuals to buy an additional six years over and above those permitted under the current time limits is overall cost neutral. The initial modelling suggests that the price will increase by around half. This time limited proposal will apply to those who reach state pension age between 6 April 2008 and 5 April 2015 and who already have 20 qualifying years (taking into account Home Responsibilities Protection) on their national insurance record.

Personal Savings: Protection

Mr. Blunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps the Government is taking to protect the assets of British citizens living in the Isle of Man whose savings were deposited with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander Ltd. [228039]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* Arrangements for depositors in banks in the Isle of Man are a matter for the Government of the Isle of Man.

Deposits with Kaupthing Singer and Friedlander, Isle of Man, will be subject to the Isle of Man deposit compensation scheme.

In line with usual constitutional arrangements, the Government will represent the Crown Dependencies in its negotiations with the Icelandic Authorities.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice HM Revenue and Customs has given to hon. Members on whether donations or payments made to the Parliamentary Labour Party by hon. Members are tax-deductible in the last two years. [233416]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs provides guidance to hon. Members about the tax treatment of donations for party political purposes in the booklet "MPs, Ministers and Tax", a copy of which is sent to all Members at the start of each Parliament.

Public Expenditure

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether a date has been set for publication of the Government's factual paper on the Barnett Formula. [234353]

Yvette Cooper: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 729W.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr. Hands: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff *(a)* on a full-time equivalent basis, *(b)* on a headcount basis and *(c)* as a proportion of total HM Revenue and Customs staff in HM Revenue and Customs are employed in an enforcement role. [230923]

Mr. Timms: The term 'enforcement' has been used to cover different activities in HMRC and the two predecessor departments. There are 6,195 (headcount) staff in HM Revenue and Customs who have the power of arrest, including uniformed staff now working with the UK Border Agency. That is 7 per cent. of the total staff in HM Revenue and Customs.

The FTE figure for these staff is not available.

Social Security Benefits

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance his Department issues on the provision of benefits to couples with children where the couple was married under the provisions of Sharia law outside the UK. [233488]

Mr. Timms: Child benefit is paid to the person responsible for the child. Tax credits are not social security benefits but are part of the tax system. Guidance on the definition of a couple, including a married couple, for tax credits purposes is published on HMRC's website and is available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/manuals/tctmanual/TCTM 06100.htm

Tax Credit: Foreigners

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many *(a)* non-UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK EU citizens have received each type of tax credit in each year since their inception; [233705]

(2) what estimate he has made of the amount of each type of tax credit paid to *(a)* non-UK citizens and *(b)* non-UK EU citizens in each year since their inception. [233706]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. The number of A8 nationals claiming tax credits is published quarterly in the Home Office Accession Monitoring Report at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/.

Taxation: Inspections

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the budget for the training of tax compliance investigatory staff in the large scale business service was in *(a)* 2006-07 and *(b)* 2007-08; and what budget is planned for 2008-09. [233662]

Mr. Timms: Training for tax professional staff in the Large Business Service is provided both centrally and locally. Costs of central training are not broken down by directorate, but in this case an estimate is provided based on total departmental spend.

The total budget for the training of tax professional staff in the Large Business Service is estimated at:

	£
2006-07	693,952
2007-08	799,213
2008-09	[1]823,303

[1] Forecast.

Tobin Tax

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what consideration he has given to the introduction of a Tobin tax on sterling currency transactions. [233434]

Mr. Timms: The Tobin tax is a long-established proposal. The Government have previously studied the technical implications of a proposed tax on sterling currency transactions and reached the view that there would be economic distortions across a range of activities beyond just the foreign exchange markets, the cost of which would be likely to far outweigh the relative costs of raising finance via other mechanisms that Governments use.

Transfer Pricing

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was collected by HM Revenue and Customs through investigations into transfer pricing in each year since 1997. [233663]

Mr. Timms: The yield from transfer pricing inquiries on large business was £118 million in 2003-04, £138 million in 2004-05, £230 million in 2005-06 and £473 million in 2006-07. Information is not yet finalised for 2007-08.

Information is not available for years before 2003 because in many cases the records do not distinguish between yield from transfer pricing and yield from other areas.

The yield from transfer pricing inquiries on smaller businesses was £48 million in 2004-05, £61 million in 2005-06 and £66 million in 2006-07.

Information is not readily available for other periods.

VAT: Small Businesses

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many value added tax *(a)* surcharge liability notices and *(b)* surcharge liability extension notices have been served on small and medium-sized businesses by HM Revenue and Customs in the last four financial quarters by; and if he will make a statement. [233733]

Mr. Timms: HM Revenue and Customs issued the following number of surcharge liability notices and surcharge liability extension notices in respect of each of the last four financial quarters for which information is available.

Financial quarter ended	*Surcharge liability notices*	*Surcharge liability extension notices*
31 August 2007	51,035	141,796
30 November 2007	51,783	147,593
29 February 2008	51,358	145,717
31 May 2008	60,909	153,798

Reliable information is not readily available on the notices issued to businesses of different size and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Welfare Tax Credits: Overpayments

Michael Jabez Foster: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households have been required to repay received tax credits following a failure to finalise their award in each of the last three years; how many of these were required to repay the full amount of the award; and what the *(a)* average and *(b)* maximum amount required in repayment was in each of those years. [230266]

Mr. Timms *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* Information on the number of families who incurred finalised overpayments in 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 because they failed to renew their award is shown in the following table, along with the average overpayment.

Families who incurred finalised overpayments due to non-renewal

	Number of families	*Average overpayment value (£)*
2004-05	131,000	1,649
2005-06	143,000	1,443
2006-07	123,000	1,269

Information on the recovery of these overpayments is available only at a disproportionate cost.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Reconstruction

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer to the right hon. Member for Richmond, Yorks of 18 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 1353W, on Afghanistan: reconstruction, what studies the Stabilisation Unit has conducted into lessons learned for his Department from UK stabilisation and reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [232932]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Since December 2007, the Stabilisation Unit has published three Stabilisation Issues Notes covering security sector and the rule of law, human rights, and demobilisation, disarmament and re-integration. It will shortly publish notes on public administration, strategic communications, and private sector development. These notes consider how to engage on these issues in conflict-affected environments. All draw heavily on lessons identified from Afghanistan and in particular Helmand Province.

All of these documents are or will be available on the Stabilisation Unit's website:

www.stabilisationunit.gov.uk

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232734]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) reports contingent liabilities annually to the House through its resource accounts, which include liabilities not required to be reported directly to Parliament. The most recent accounts for 2007-08 were laid before the House on 14 July 2008 (HC 672). No other contingent liabilities have been reported directly to the House in the last five years.

DFID's only non-departmental public body is the Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, which reports annually to Parliament through me. Its most recent report was issued in June 2008 and copies were placed in the Library of the House.

Developing Countries: Non-profit Making Associations

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans he has to spread best practice of social enterprises in low income countries; and if he will make a statement. [233114]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) understands social enterprises to be businesses set up to tackle a social or environmental need, in which profits are reinvested to sustain and further their mission for positive change. Many producer co-operatives, self-help groups and fairtrade producer groups could be considered as social enterprises. DFID's country programmes work with a range of these and DFID centrally has supported the fairtrade movement for many years.

As part of a donor consortium, DFID is currently funding the global Fairtrade Labelling Organisation (FLO) and one of its member bodies, the UK Fairtrade Foundation, to help rapidly expand the reach of fairtrade through bringing many more poor producers, particularly from low-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, into fairtrade markets. Bringing producers into fairtrade certification involves informing producers about the standards required, including that a democratically-run group must exist that decides how to invest for social purposes the 'fairtrade premium' they will receive. Our funding helps support specific work such as the FLO 'Strategic Review' currently under way, that considers progress against the objectives of providing market access on good terms for poorer producers in developing countries, to identify and share what is working and what remains a challenge.

Humanitarian Aid

Mrs. Curtis-Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 668-69W, on humanitarian aid, where the humanitarian funding guidelines may be obtained; how much funding has been allocated to the activities described in relation to Bangladesh; and what projects in *(a)* Sierra Leone and *(b)* Nigeria his Department is supporting on (i) reducing the risk of disaster, (ii) preventing the re-emergence of conflict and (iii) fostering a greater adherence to aid effectiveness principles. [232946]

Mr. Michael Foster: The 23 principles of good humanitarian donorship are listed in full on the Good Humanitarian Donorship website:

http://www.goodhumanitariandonorship.org/

The Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian policy is available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/pubs/files/humanitarian-policy.pdf

DFID's Humanitarian Funding Guidelines for NGOs are available on the DFID website at:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/funding/11696-Humanitarian4th.pdf

The UK has committed funding in Bangladesh as follows:

(a) Disaster preparedness and management: £6 million over six years from 2003 to 2009, to support the Government of Bangladesh to develop a comprehensive disaster management programme.

(b) Funding of relief operations: over £9 million for Floods and Cyclone Sidr relief in 2007, of which up to £4.75 million was provided to NGOs, and £3.6 million channelled through UNDP to local NGOs.

(c) Early recovery and assessments on reconstruction/rehabilitation: Up to £8.5 million for early recovery Floods 2007 and Cyclone Sidr programmes.

The DFID programme in Sierra Leone for 2008-09 totals £40 million. This includes DFID core budget support to the Office for National Security with support to its disasters management department. On preventing conflict, our justice sector development programme provides support to the police. We are working with other donors to support the government to develop a new poverty reduction strategy. This will provide an improved basis for donors to align their support and to work in partnership.

The DFID programme in Nigeria for 2008-09 totals £100 million. DFID Nigeria helps reduce the risk of disaster and the likely impacts through, for example, health programmes, which help to prevent health disasters by strengthening monitoring for Avian Influenza, increasing levels of immunisation against polio, and reducing the spread of HIV/AIDS. To help prevent the re-emergence of conflict, DFID, via the Conflict Prevention Pool, will contribute £900,000 this financial year towards conflict prevention activities in Nigeria, including a partnership with Action Aid to promote community-level conflict prevention. DFID Nigeria has also supported civil society activities to reduce the risk of election-related conflict and is funding a £2 million programme to reduce tensions in the Niger Delta by promoting greater government transparency and accountability. DFID Nigeria's programme is closely aligned with the Federal Government's National Economic Empowerment and Development Strategy (NEEDS). DFID Nigeria has worked in a joint Country Partnership Strategy with the World Bank and USAID since 2005, and is leading efforts to further harmonise donor activity in Nigeria in a Nigeria Development Partner Framework, involving all major donors.

India: Internally Displaced Persons

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to *(a)* the Indian federal government and *(b)* the Orissa state government to assist the police and judicial authorities in ending the religious violence in Orissa. [234724]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has not offered assistance. Neither the government of India nor the government of Orissa has sought bilateral assistance for the police and judicial authorities. This is in keeping with our standard policy.

The Department for International Development (DFID) does provide significant support to the federal government, and to state governments, including Orissa. This is focused on supporting long-term development priorities, with a particular emphasis on strengthening systems to provide services, such as health and education, to poor people.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assistance his Department has offered to *(a)* the Indian federal government and *(b)* the Orissa state government to (i) help return displaced people to their homes in safety and (ii) repair homes destroyed and damaged in the recent religious violence in Orissa. [234725]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Government of India have not asked for bilateral assistance and are dealing with the situation. Accordingly, the Department for International Development (DFID) has not offered assistance either to the Indian federal government or to the Orissa state government.

According to official figures, 24,000 people have been displaced by the violence, of which 10,000 have now returned home. The remaining 14,000 people are being housed in relief camps set up and managed by the Government of Orissa.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of conditions in the relief camps in Orissa state for people displaced by religious violence. [234726]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not made an assessment of the conditions in the relief camps. Neither the government of India, nor the government of Orissa has requested such an assessment. It would not be appropriate or possible for DFID to do this without such a request.

According to official figures, around 24,000 people have been displaced by the recent violence in Orissa. The government of Orissa have established, and maintain, a number of relief camps to house these people until they are able to return to their homes.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to people displaced by the recent-based violence in Orissa state, India. [234727]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has not provided humanitarian assistance for those displaced in Orissa. The government of India has not requested bilateral assistance to deal with this situation.

International Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with Ministers from countries contributing to the Global Fund on the transparency and effectiveness of the Global Fund's accounting and financial monitoring systems. [234057]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) are in frequent contact with donors to the fund and other board members—implementing countries, civil society organisations from both the north and south, communities living with the three diseases, the private sector and private foundations, and the fund's secretariat. The fund's accounting and financial monitoring systems are extremely important given the size of the UK's support to the fund, and we take them very seriously. We consult with the members of the fund's finance and audit committee, and the fund's chief financial officer, on the fund's accounts and budgets.

We also strongly support the Independent Office of the Inspector General (OIG), which carries out oversight for investigations, audit and inspection of activities and transactions, to assess the effectiveness of internal controls and to identify areas that will enable the Global Fund to achieve better results. The OIG has identified four priority areas, namely:

Providing assurance on grant processes;

Providing assurance on other main business processes;

Supporting the managerial and governance initiatives, and

Strengthening the office of the OIG.

I am due to meet Professor Kazatchkine on 24 November to get an update from the executive director on progress to date and prospects for the fund over the next five years.

Overseas Aid: Education

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what percentage of the Department's emergency humanitarian budget he expects to spend on education over the next 12 months; if he will meet Save the Children to discuss its report, Delivering Education for Children in Emergency: A Key Building Bloc for the Future. [234609]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) humanitarian policy is to respond to crises as they occur. DFID does not plan emergency humanitarian funding in advance. We seek to ensure that priority life-saving needs are met in emergency situations, taking into account the capacities of the country affected. In an emergency, education is considered alongside other humanitarian needs and is funded by donors in situations where it is considered high priority by the United Nations Humanitarian Coordinator in the affected country.

I would be happy to meet with Save the Children's executive director to discuss DFID's support to education in emergencies.

Somalia: Overseas Aid

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the effect of UK development assistance to Somalia; and if he will make a statement. [233082]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to Somalia since 2004 has been implemented through the UN and NGOs, concentrating on basic services, governance and humanitarian relief. Our support is:

Helping to combat malaria through distribution of bed nets (120,000 in Somaliland);

Improving education quality through distribution of school books and provision of alternative education programmes (up from 40,000 to 70,000 enrolled in Somaliland);

Providing much needed food aid (supporting the equivalent of 83,000 people over the last four years);

Helping sustain prospects for peace (essential for a long-term solution to poverty in Somalia) through technical support to the peace processes; and

Building the capacity of Transitional Federal Institutions and the Somaliland authorities (for example, financial management systems).

Swaziland: HIV Infection

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps the Government is taking to promote health care and education in relation to HIV and AIDS to *(a)* women and *(b)* men in Swaziland. [233263]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) support to Swaziland is through its Southern Africa Regional Programme. As part of this, DFID is providing £19 million (2007-11) to community organisations which address health issues through the regional Behaviour Change Communication Programme (BCC).

The BCC provides funding of over £500,000 each year in Swaziland through the South African non-governmental organisation Soul City and local partner Lusweti, to provide popular and easily understood information on health and HIV and AIDS. This programme reaches over 80 per cent. of adults and young women and men in Swaziland.

Voluntary Work

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1166W, on voluntary work, what assessment his Department has made of the cost-effectiveness of Platform2's use of British Airways flights. [233135]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Platform2 programme was launched in February 2008. It is implemented on behalf of the Department for International Development (DFID) by Christian Aid in partnership with Islamic Relief and the British Universities North America Club (BUNAC). A mid-term review of this programme, including cost-effectiveness issues, will be carried out in mid-2009 with a final review due in early 2011.

Zimbabwe: International Assistance

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the safeguards in place to ensure that the Government's contribution to the Global Fund's recent donation to Zimbabwe will be used for the purposes for which it was intended; [234055]

(2) what assessment he has made of the level of fiduciary risk carried by the Global Fund in relation to its recent donation to Zimbabwe. [234121]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: A recent independent audit of the Global Fund's financial management arrangements in Zimbabwe reported that $7.3 million, from a previous grant, had been withheld from intended recipients by the Reserve Bank of Zimbabwe. Following demands by the Global Fund, this money has now been released back to the commercial banks where the Global Fund principal recipients hold accounts. A further $500 million, recently approved in principle by the Global Fund board, will only go ahead when a fully accountable funding mechanism is secured.

The UK, along with other donors, has actively encouraged and been fully supportive of the audit and the tougher stance taken by the Global Fund. Funding of this type is desperately needed in Zimbabwe, but it must be delivered through mechanisms which ensure that it reaches deserving people on the ground.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for International Developement what recent assessment he has made of the level of corruption affecting the Zimbabwe Reserve Bank. [234056]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Under current circumstances and management arrangements, we do not consider the Reserve Bank (RBZ) of Zimbabwe to be, in any way, a credible partner in our humanitarian and social protection programmes. The RBZ is not open to scrutiny: its operations remain unaccountable and appear to be aimed primarily at propping up the ruling elite, especially through the allocation of scarce foreign exchange. The Department for International Development (DFID) does not transfer funds to the government of Zimbabwe and no payments are made through the Reserve Bank.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 11 November 2008

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Construction

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Minister for the Olympics whether the £95 million forwarded to the Olympic Delivery Authority in October 2008 from contingency funding related to construction of the Olympic Village was from *(a)* the Olympic Delivery Authority programme, *(b)* the Funders' Group and *(c)* another contingency fund; and if she will make a statement. [229336]

Tessa Jowell *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: £95 million to fund commencement of construction of the Olympic Village was originally allocated from Funders' Group contingency as an interim measure. The Funders' Group have now confirmed that up to £22 million that has already been spent will be funded from Funders' Group contingency with the balance being funded by the ODA until funding arrangements are further considered, expected to be early in the new year.

Olympic Games 2012: Flowers

Harry Cohen: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what consideration the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics have given to providing alternatives to cut flowers for presentation to medallists, competitors, VIPs and others during the Olympic and Paralympic Games. [235060]

Tessa Jowell: In line with the sustainability plan published last year, 'Towards a One Planet 2012', the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) will seek to use natural materials and identify opportunities for using locally sourced plants where possible.

Sustainability is a rapidly evolving field and alternatives will be considered nearer the time when there are likely to be more options available.

Together with LOCOG and the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) I am committed to making the London 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games as sustainable as possible.

Olympic Games 2012: KPMG

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister for the Olympics if she will publish the terms of reference given to KPMG in relation to its report on Olympic venues. [233748]

Tessa Jowell: KPMG was instructed by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) with input from the Government Olympic Executive and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games to assist in the evaluation of the options analysis for:

venue options for Basketball which would include the final round of the Handball Competition;

review of the value engineering study conducted by the ODA in late 2007;

the use of the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich as the venue for both the Olympic and Paralympic Games Shooting competitions;

the use of Greenwich for the Equestrian and Modern Pentathlon events during the Games;

the use of Eton Manor as the possible venue for Wheelchair Tennis, Paralympic Archery and training pools;

considerations stress value for money.

The KPMG report is yet to be finalised and therefore plans for any part of its publication, including the specific terms of reference, are still to be determined.

WALES

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what percentage of those working in his Department are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233854]

Mr. Paul Murphy: The Wales Office has the following staff working on flexible terms:

(a) 82 per cent. work on a flexi-time basis

(b) no staff work on a job share basis, but some are part-time (3.6 per cent.)

(c) one member of staff (1.8 per cent.) has a formal arrangement to work more than four hours a week from home, and other staff members work on this basis on an ad hoc basis.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234082]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since the creation of the Wales Office in 1999 there have been no reported thefts or losses of memory sticks, laptop computers, desktop computers and hard drives, although there have been three reported losses of mobile phones, one in 2004, one in 2006 and one in 2007.

Departmental Official Residences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend, East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 6W, on departmental official residences, what the cost of refurbishment of his London office was; and what the nature of the work undertaken was. [233390]

Mr. Paul Murphy: I refer the right hon. Gentleman to the answer given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1W.

Departmental Security

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many security passes of staff in his Department were stolen in each year since 2001. [233504]

Mr. Paul Murphy: Since 2001 we have recorded a loss of three security passes, two in 2006 and one in 2008.

These passes solely gain access to the Wales Office and are immediately removed from the internal database.

PRIME MINISTER

Official Hospitality

Pete Wishart: To ask the Prime Minister what Government expenditure on Ministerial hospitality was in the financial years *(a)* 2004-05, *(b)* 2005-06, *(c)* 2006-07 and *(d)* 2007-08, expressed in current prices. [234356]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to the written statement I made on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 108-10WS, and the answer I gave my hon. Friend the Member for Cleethorpes (Shona McIsaac) on 25 July 2007, *Official Report*, column 1108W. I also refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my predecessor, the right hon. Tony Blair, on 11 October 2006, *Official Report*, column 788W, and the answer given by my noble Friend the Lord Bassam of Brighton on 21 July 2005, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column WA261.

Expenditure on other ministerial hospitality is a matter for the relevant Department.

SCOTLAND

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234695]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office does not use Airwave technology and has no plans to do so.

Football: Racial Discrimination

Mr. Galloway: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland if he will hold discussions with the Scottish Executive on recent instances of anti-Irish racism at football matches involving Scottish clubs; and if he will make a statement. [234222]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I have had discussions with the Scottish Executive on a number of issues, however none specifically concerning anti-Irish racism at football matches involving Scottish clubs.

Tackling such issues falls to the Scottish Football Association and Scottish football clubs, in conjunction with the police. Sport and policing are devolved matters.

Football: Terrorism

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has held discussions with the Scottish Executive on pro-terrorism chanting at football matches in Scotland; and if he will make a statement. [234887]

Ann McKechin: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Scotland and I have had discussions with the Scottish Executive on a number of issues, however none specifically concerning chanting at football matches in Scotland.

Tackling such issues falls to the Scottish Football Association and Scottish football clubs, in conjunction with the police. Sport and policing are devolved matters.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Abortion Act 1968

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the Government's policy is on seeking to extend to Northern Ireland the provisions of the Abortion Act 1968. [232787]

Mr. Woodward: Successive Governments have consistently said that extending the Abortion Act 1967 to Northern Ireland would need the most careful consultation there and that no change to the current arrangements should be made against the wishes of the people in Northern Ireland.

The Government believe that the best forum for taking decisions on this matter is the Northern Ireland Assembly once it has taken on responsibility for the criminal law.

Access NI

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many applicants have raised a dispute with Access NI since 1 April 2008; and how many of these have been upheld. [232880]

Paul Goggins: While the statistics requested are not available, I can confirm that a number of registered bodies and applicants have queried the information provided on the Disclosure Certificate. In a small number of these cases the certificate has been amended as a result. Statistical information of the kind requested will in future be collated.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many persons have lodged complaints with Access NI about the standard of its service since 1 April 2008. [232881]

Paul Goggins: While the statistics requested are not available, I can confirm that a significant number of letters, e-mails and telephone calls have been received complaining about various aspects of the service. The majority of these are related to the current delays in returning certificates. Statistical information of the kind requested will in future be collated.

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234696]

Mr. Woodward: No organisation for which my Department is responsible use, or is planning to use Airwave handsets.

Bloody Sunday Tribunal of Inquiry

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the costs of the Saville Inquiry have been for each calendar month since February 2005, broken down by category of expenditure. [234917]

Paul Goggins: I am advised that the costs of the inquiry for each calendar month since February 2005 have been as follows:

	NIO funding to the inquiry	*MOD legal costs*	*Total*
2008-09			
April	499,141	25,377	524,518
May	332,889	11,454	344,343
June	189,141	18,812	207,953
July	375,454	21,150	396,604
August	346,626	22,358	368,984
September	406,974	27,884	434,858
Total	2,150,225	127,035	2,277,260
2007-08			
April	286,425	20,946	307,371
May	325,249	25,896	351,145
June	300,272	15,978	316,250
July	940,194	27,058	967,252
August	338,424	22,305	360,729
September	507,882	17,983	525,865
October	234,884	25,629	260,513
November	462,529	22,189	484,718
December	239,949	21,362	261,311
January	453,054	25,255	478,309
February	599,295	23,167	622,462
March	365,839	22,194	388,033
Total	5,053,994	269,962	5,323,956
2006-07			
April	351,827	22,192	374,019
May	4,033,188	24,689	4,057,877
June	706,742	26,602	733,344
July	353,425	42,161	395,586
August	954,094	18,323	972,417
September	330,117	21,305	351,422
October	219,749	29,300	249,049
November	716,369	25,984	742,353
December	576,040	27,861	603,901
January	415,493	27,826	443,319
February	360,675	20,670	381,345
March	501,147	18,293	519,440
Total	9,518,866	305,206	9,824,072
2005-06			
April	551,126	38,093	589,219
May	448,943	27,278	476,221
June	665,401	60,196	725,597
July	762,083	53,926	816,009
August	1,201,478	27,437	1,228,915
September	574,566	11,327	585,893
October	662,000	30,054	692,054
November	488,252	31,803	520,055
December	455,719	47,323	503,042
January	439,321	31,390	470,711
February	456,188	36,448	492,636
March	456,892	26,650	483,542
Total	7,161,969	421,925	7,583,894
2004-05			
February	1,629,280	31,696	1,660,976
March	698,762	70,821	769,583
Total	2,328,042	102,517	2,430,559

NIO funding to the inquiry covers expenditure by the Bloody Sunday inquiry, including staff, accommodation, IT, travel and legal costs for some participants.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland on what dates in each of the last five years his Department informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department. [232725]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO) publishes its annual contingent liabilities and those of its non-executive non-departmental public bodies as part of the Departmental Resource Accounts.

The following table shows the dates on which the NIO's Departmental resource accounts were issued in the last five financial years:

	Date of Issue
2007-08	16 July 2008
2006-07	11 July 2007
2005-06	20 July 2006
2004-05	7 November 2005
2003-04	27 January 2005

Details of the Contingent Liabilities of Executive NDPBs are published separately in their respective resource accounts which are laid before the House in accordance with the deadlines set by Her Majesty's Treasury.

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226504]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Office (NIO), including its agencies, seeks to comply with 'The Better Payments Practice Code' for achieving good payment performance in commercial transactions. Under this code, the policy is to pay bills in accordance with contractual conditions or, where no such conditions exist, within 30 days of receipt of goods and services or the presentation of a valid invoice, whichever is later.

The prompt payment results for 2007-08 showed that 91.6 per cent. of departmental and agency invoices were paid in accordance with the terms of the standard; this can be broken down as follows:

Body	*Paid on time (Percentage)*
Northern Ireland Office	89.9
Northern Ireland Prison Service	92.6
Forensic Science Northern Ireland	96.1
Youth Justice Agency	95.0
Compensation Agency	98.6

Any analysis relating to the size of the business can be completed only at disproportionate cost.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within his Department; and what use has been made of that information. [228551]

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within his Department. [234249]

Paul Goggins: In Northern Ireland, section 75 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 ensures that equality issues, including disability, are integral to the whole range of public policy decision making. Public authorities such as the Northern Ireland Office (NIO) are required to submit equality schemes to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland.

Section 49A of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995 (DDA 1995) (as amended by article 5 of the Disability Discrimination (Northern Ireland) Order 2006), which came into force on 1 January 2007, introduced the 'disability duties' in Northern Ireland to reflect changes to disability legislation in Great Britain.

Under section 49B of the DDA 1995, the NIO is required to submit a disability action plan to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. This plan sets out how it proposes to fulfil the disability duties in relation to its functions and monitor and report on progress.

The NIO is committed to a series of actions which we believe will help remove the attitudinal and environmental barriers experienced by many disabled people. The plan focuses on a number of key areas to help secure improvements: employment; accessibility; communication; and public appointments.

Employee engagement is key to the NIO's Development and Health and Well Being Strategy and a crucial factor in motivating and retaining our employees.

Since April we have arranged a number of seminars and events which has raised employee awareness of physical and mental health issues and health related articles are published on the NIO's internal intranet.

In recognising that stress can lead to mental illness we have in place policies on the prevention, recognition and management of stress at work and are currently delivering a "Managing Stress" course mandated for all managers.

The NIO also provides staff with the opportunity to attend the Occupational Health Service, to seek support from the Welfare Support Service or through an Employee Assistance Programme (EAP). The EAP is complementary to the Welfare Support Service and provides an independent, confidential and professional counselling support service for all staff and their immediate family members. These services are available to all staff, and have benefited and assisted those who are absent because of sickness to return to work, and those who are in work to remain in work.

Those public sector bodies which are sponsored by my department but are separately designated with respect to section 75 are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability action plans.

TRANSPORT

A12: Gidea Park

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what work has been undertaken to repair the damage to the flyover at Gallows Corner on the A12 at Gidea Park following its partial closure; and what plans there are for a permanent replacement for the present flyover. [234211]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: Responsibility for the A12, from central London to the London boundary and the section of the A127 within London, lies with the Mayor and Transport for London. Questions on such operational matters including any works carried out at Gallows Corner or plans for a new flyover should be directed to them.

Air Traffic Control: Illegal Broadcasting

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of the extent of disruption of air traffic control communications by illegal broadcasters; and what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues at the Home Office and the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on such incidents. [232128]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Office of Communications is the Government agency responsible for monitoring and prosecuting illegal broadcasters. NATS, the leading air navigation services provider, is a private company and questions concerning the extent of disruption to its air traffic control services should be directed to the company's chief executive.

Airports

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum recommended length of runway is for a Boeing 747 to land and take-off. [234593]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: The published take-off field length for a Boeing 747 is 3,200 metres, assuming maximum take-off weight and full thrust, and the published landing distance (for a dry runway) is 2,250 meters.

Airports: Planning Permission

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish a national policy statement within the framework envisaged by the Planning Bill on airports. [234351]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: We intend to publish a National Policy Statement on airports, in due course.

Aviation

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what process will be followed if BAA seeks permission to introduce mixed-mode *(a)* within the 480,000 cap and *(b)* exceeding the existing 480,000 cap. [232220]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the question from the hon. Member for Richmond Park (Susan Kramer) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 46W.

Aviation: Fares

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average change in air fares was in each year since 1997. [232027]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The following table shows the average UK one-way air fare, including taxes and charges, covering domestic and international flights.

Average UK one-way air fare, 1997 prices

	Average air fare (£)
1997	203
1998	192
1999	163
2000	158
2001	143
2002	129
2003	112
2004	107
2005	101
2006	103

Notes:

1. 'Fare' includes all taxes and charges.
2. Covers domestic and international scheduled flights, but excludes transfer and charter passengers.
3. Domestic component based on a sample of routes where sufficient data available.

Source:

DFT analysis of CAA and IPS data.

Biofuels

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 46WS, on the post-Gallagher update, what assessment he has made of the effect of slowing down the rate of increase of the renewable transport fuel obligation on levels of investment in sustainable biofuel production in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the EU and *(c)* other countries and regions. [234980]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are currently consulting on proposals to slow down the rate of increase of obligation levels under the renewable transport fuel obligation. The impact assessment which accompanies the consultation examines the potential effects on investment in biofuel production in the UK only.

This assessment concluded that a slowdown, together with future European targets for biofuels, should still give an incentive to the biofuels industry to invest in new technology and domestic capacity. A 5 per cent. biofuel obligation is still proposed in 2013-14 rather than 2010-11 and the final level of investment in sustainable production is not expected to be significantly affected. However there may be differences in the short to medium term in how fuel suppliers meet the obligation.[1]

The views of consultees on the impact assessment and estimates of the effects on investment of the proposed slow down shall be taken into account by the Government.

[1] Source:

Consultation on the Draft Renewable Transport Fuel Obligations, (Amendment) Order 2009, Annex D Impact Assessment; page 71.

Driving Tests: Standards

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what percentage of *(a)* delegated examiners and *(b)* driving examiners have been safety checked by Driving Standards Agency quality assurance teams in the last 12 months. [232998]

Jim Fitzpatrick: During the last 12 months, the Driving Standards Agency's (DSA's) Quality Assurance Teams (QATs) have quality assured 46.7 per cent. of DSA's examiners.

The Agency's QATs have also been used to assure the standards of delegated examiners (who primarily conduct bus and lorry driving tests). Delegated examiners are non-DSA personnel who are permitted, by the Secretary of State, to conduct driving tests. They are used by many police forces, fire and rescue authorities and some bus companies to conduct tests for their employees.

New arrangements were introduced for delegated examiners from 10 September 2008, including revised quality assurance procedures. Since then, DSA have quality assured 3.4 per cent. of them.

Driving: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department has analysed on the number of *(a)* serious injuries and *(b)* fatalities resulting from accidents involving people driving who should not have held a driving licence due to their health or eyesight; and if he will make a statement. [233146]

Jim Fitzpatrick: There is no such specific research. However, the Department's annual report "Road Casualties Great Britain" has since 2005 included information on factors that, in the opinion of the reporting officer, may have contributed to a crash. Included in the list of factors that can be reported are "uncorrected, defective eyesight" and "illness or disability, mental or physical". The figures reported are:

	Fatal accidents	*Serious accidents*	*Slight accidents*	*All*
Uncorrected, defective eyesight				
2005	10	35	181	226
2006	4	47	158	209
2007	5	41	161	207
Illness or disability, mental or physical				
2005	89	380	1316	1785
2006	75	393	1,379	1,847
2007	93	345	1,369	1,807

There is no information on how many of these cases involved drivers who should not have had a licence due to their health or eyesight.

We are currently reviewing the procedures by which health issues are addressed in the driver licensing system. However, all drivers have a duty to ensure they are fit to drive before doing so.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it his policy to suspend the licences of drivers suspected of causing death or serious injury due to health or eyesight problems until the completion of inquiries into or prosecution of such drivers. [233148]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Where DVLA receives sufficient evidence of a relevant disability the driving licence can be revoked immediately.

There are procedures in place for police forces to inform DVLA where they suspect that a driver is suffering from a medical condition affecting their fitness to drive. This is not dependent on whether or not a decision is made to prosecute the driver for any related road traffic offence. Where sufficient evidence is not provided immediately, an investigation will be conducted and, if the individual is assessed as unfit to drive, the licence is revoked. There are currently no proposals to change this approach.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will make it a condition of holding a driving licence that a person consents to his medical records being released to the police in the event of an accident involving the licence-holder resulting in serious injury or fatality; and if he will make a statement. [233167]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The investigation of such accidents is a matter for the police. The introduction of such a condition on the licence is not currently judged to be either proportionate or appropriate.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to require medical professionals to inform the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency when a person has a medical condition affecting a person's ability to drive. [233168]

Jim Fitzpatrick: While there is no legal obligation on doctors to notify DVLA, they do have a duty of care, not only to their patient but also to the general public. On this basis, they do have an obligation to report to DVLA instances where they consider a patient unfit to drive.

The General Medical Council (GMC) has issued guidelines to the effect that doctors should inform DVLA about unfit patients who they have advised should notify DVLA, but have failed to act on that advice.

There is no proposal to change this position.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department and its agencies has given to the Manchester-based organisations *(a)* Transport Pool and *(b)* the Community Network for Manchester in the last 24 months. [233234]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport and its agencies do not directly fund either of the two organisations in question. Community Network for Manchester has received Government funding through Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and Working Neighbourhoods Fund. This funding has been provided through Manchester city council.

Heathrow Airport: Construction

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to meet hon. Members representing constituencies which would be affected by Heathrow expansion before announcing a decision on the matter; and if he will make a statement. [234729]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: Now that the period for public consultation has closed, it would not be appropriate for Ministers to enter into further discussion on Heathrow matters with individual Members. Today's debate will provide a further opportunity for all hon. Members to put on record their views and those of their constituents.

Heathrow Airport: Public Participation

Alan Keen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which organisations were consulted on the adding capacity at Heathrow equalities impact assessment consultation; how the consultation was publicised in West London; and whether the Department held any public meetings or public exhibitions as part of the consultation process. [232221]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The adding capacity at Heathrow equalities impact assessment consultation document was published on the Department's website along with foreign language translations of the executive summary detailing how to respond, and was the subject of a press release.

Around 300 organisations were contacted directly by letter drawing attention to the consultation document and alerting them to the intention to hold discussions with stakeholders. These included among others, local authorities, charities and voluntary sector organisations.

A selected number of organisations identified by our independent consultants representing members of the Black, Asian and ethnic minority communities, age and disability sectors were also invited to take part in some additional meetings to discuss the issues. Three of these meetings were held in the local community. No public exhibitions were held.

Monorails

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department has on the number and location of monorails in use in England; and if he will make a statement. [233964]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not hold detailed information on monorail systems.

Railways: Construction

Mrs. Villiers: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to publish a National Policy Statement within the framework envisaged by the Planning Bill on high speed rail. [234327]

Paul Clark: In due course, we intend to publish a National Policy Statement on National Networks, which will include our policy for the development of the national rail network.

Railways: Overcrowding

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if his Department will gather information on levels of overcrowding on trains in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* England. [231925]

Paul Clark: The information requested is currently published annually in aggregated form by the Office of Rail Regulation within its "National Rail Trends Yearbook" and is available on the ORR website. The latest published data relate to passenger counts carried out by train operators in autumn 2006.

Railways: Standards

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the minimum statutory space requirement for each rail passenger is; and what estimate his Department has made of how often these space requirements are met. [232023]

Paul Clark: Rail statistics are published by the Office of Rail Regulation. The latest data available are for 2006 and are published in the National Rail Trends Year Book for 2006-07, which is available in the Library of the House. The published crowding measure (which was first used by the Office of Passenger Rail Franchising in 2000) is based on an assumed standing room of 0.45 metres per standing passenger.

There are two specific variations to the published measure: Class 376 trains, operating on Southeastern services; and for services operated by Stagecoach South West Trains to and from London Waterloo.

New (Class 376) purpose-built vehicles ordered for Southeastern are configured to serve short-distance Metro passenger flows, and the stock has been specifically configured with low density seating and appropriate grab rails for standing passengers, to ensure that passengers can stand in relative comfort for short-distance journeys; the same is true for Class 455 units operated by Stagecoach South West Trains, on services that stop within 20 minutes of leaving London Waterloo. In these cases the standard is varied to 0.35 and 0.25 square metres respectively.

Road Traffic: Essex

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 247W, on road traffic: Essex, what major maintenance improvements he is contemplating; which auxiliary lane scheme he will approve for the Hatfield Peverel to Witham section; whether the £24.5 million expenditure is additional to money already earmarked for spending on trunk roads in the East of England; and when the allocation of funding to these projects will be confirmed. [235118]

Paul Clark: The Kelvedon Phase 2 major maintenance scheme is already funded and will begin construction on 13 November 2008. The future programme of works for the financial year 2009-10 will include both the Witham Phase 2 works and the Hatfield Peverel Auxiliary Lane scheme, both being programmed for construction concurrently.

The Hatfield Peverel Auxiliary Lane section of the works will involve the construction of a southbound auxiliary lane between Junctions 21 and 20B of the A12, along with improvements to the northbound slip road at Junction 20B. This scheme will take place entirely within the current highway boundary.

There will not be any requirement for additional money for the construction of the schemes as all design and construction costs will be taken from the Highways Agency's regular funding.

Allocation of funding for schemes programmed to start during the financial year 2009-10 will be confirmed early 2009.

Roads: Accidents

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* people and *(b)* children were (i) killed and (ii) seriously injured in road accidents in each of the last 16 years. [234591]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The information requested is given in the table:

Number of casualties

	Child (0-15)				*Adult (16+)*				*All*[1]			
	Fatal	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*	*Fatal*	*Serious*	*Slight*	*Total*
1992	310	7,434	36,443	44,187	3,908	41,144	216,056	261,108	4,229	49,256	257,268	310,753
1993	306	6,670	35,617	42,593	3,493	37,652	216,742	257,887	3,814	45,020	257,301	306,135
1994	299	7,226	37,627	45,152	3,320	38,552	221,960	263,832	3,650	46,540	265,169	315,359
1995	270	6,983	36,536	43,789	3,330	37,866	219,477	260,673	3,621	45,533	261,533	310,687
1996	270	6,719	37,848	44,837	3,304	37,085	229,597	269,986	3,598	44,499	272,481	320,578
1997	255	6,197	38,094	44,546	3,344	36,119	238,193	277,656	3,599	42,984	281,220	327,803
1998	206	5,873	37,366	43,445	3,213	34,315	238,393	275,921	3,421	40,834	280,957	325,212
1999	221	5,478	36,352	42,051	3,183	32,914	234,947	271,044	3,423	39,122	277,765	320,310
2000	191	5,011	34,513	39,715	3,211	32,382	237,129	272,722	3,409	38,155	278,719	320,283
2001	219	4,769	33,281	38,269	3,199	31,559	232,170	266,928	3,450	37,110	272,749	313,309
2002	179	4,417	30,093	34,689	3,221	30,846	226,169	260,236	3,431	35,976	263,198	302,605
2003	171	3,929	27,888	31,988	3,320	29,095	218,477	250,892	3,508	33,707	253,392	290,607
2004	166	3,739	27,095	31,000	3,037	26,790	212,539	242,366	3,221	31,130	246,489	280,840
2005	141	3,331	24,654	28,126	3,051	25,031	207,339	235,421	3,201	28,954	238,862	271,017
2006	169	3,125	22,229	25,523	2,994	25,057	198,442	226,493	3,172	28,673	226,559	258,404
2007	121	2,969	20,717	23,807	2,817	24,285	190,872	217,974	2,946	27,774	217,060	247,780

[1] Includes cases where age of the casualty was not reported.

The information is also published in table C on the Department's website at the following web address:

http:/[illegible]ww.dft.gov.uk/172974/173025/221412/221549/227755/315281/personalinjury.xls

Thames Gateway Bridge

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Mayor of London and *(b)* Transport for London on the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge; and if he will make a statement. [232929]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Department for Transport officials have regular discussions with Transport for London regarding the proposed Thames Gateway Bridge. The Secretary of State and the Mayor met on 9 July and discussed the matter but further work was needed in order to address the issues raised at the inquiry. The proposed Thames Gateway Bridge is a Transport for London project however, and is therefore a matter for the Mayor. It would be inappropriate for me to make a statement.

Transport: Disabled

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps are being made to make London transport more accessible to disabled people before 2012. [233838]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Transport for the London 2012 Olympic games and Paralympic games is the responsibility of the Olympic Deliver Authority (ODA). The ODA published their Accessible Transport Strategy in May 2008, which outlines the plans for ensuring that disabled persons can make best use of public transport to get to and from games venues and events. This includes the accessibility work streams under way on the London transport network, including improvements in accessibility at key stations such as Stratford Regional station and Stratford International, and other accessibility programmes such as London Underground's "Step Free Programme".

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Crime

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* cautions and *(b)* arrests were imposed for alcohol-related offences in (i) Hertfordshire and (ii) Hemel Hempstead in the last eight quarters for which records are available. [231935]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested in respect of cautions covering the offences of (a) Drunkenness, (b) Drunkenness with aggravation, (c) Offences against the licensing acts, (d) other offences against intoxicating laws, and (e) selected motoring offences, is provided in the table. The Office for Criminal Justice Reform is unable to provide data for Hemel Hempstead as data are not collected at the level required.

The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally. The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The alcohol related offences presented in the table are not notifiable offences and do not form part of the arrests collection.

From data reported to the Ministry of Justice, with the exception of these offences, it is not possible to separately identify whether cautions or arrests for other offences were alcohol related.

Number of offenders cautioned[1] for alcohol related offences[2] and issued with Penalty Notices for Disorder (PNDs)[3] in the Hertfordshire police force area, broken down by quarter, 2005 to 2006[4,5]

	2005				2006			
	Q1	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*
Cautions	17	19	19	11	8	8	10	2
PNDs	64	106	83	105	83	88	89	94

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Includes offences of:
(a) Drunkenness simple.
(b) Drunkenness with aggravation simple.
(c) Offences by licensed person.
(d) Other offences against intoxicating liquor laws.
(e) Driving after consuming alcohol or taking drugs.

[3] Includes all alcohol related penalty notices for disorder:
Drunk and disorderly
Selling alcohol to person under 18
Selling alcohol to a person who is drunk
Supplying alcohol to a person under 18
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchasing alcohol for person under 18 for consumption in a bar in licensed premises
Delivering alcohol to person under 18 or allowing such delivery
Being drunk in a highway, other public place or licensed premises
Consuming alcohol in designated public place
Consuming alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Allowing consumption of alcohol by person under 18 in licensed premises
Purchase of alcohol by a person under 18

[4] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[5] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many penalty notices for disorder in relation to the sale of alcohol to a person under 18 years of age were issued in *(a)* England and Wales and *(b)* each police force area in each year since 2004; how many of these resulted in an unpaid fine in each area; and what the average fine levied was. [230640]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 711W.

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people were prosecuted for supplying alcohol to people under the age of 18 years in Islwyn constituency in each of the last five years. [231608]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer my right hon. Friend to the answer given on 10 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 18W.

Information held on the court proceedings database cannot be broken down by constituency.

Asylum

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum seekers were living in each constituency in the UK at the most recent date for which figures are available. [226550]

Mr. Woolas: Statistics on the location of asylum seekers in the UK are linked to the available information on the support that the asylum seeker receives. A detailed breakdown by regional location of those asylum seekers not in receipt of support would only be available at disproportionate cost by examination of each of the individual case records.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken clown by parliamentary constituency are published on a quarterly basis and are available from the Library of the House. Tables are placed in the Library of the House on a quarterly basis and are named "Asylum seekers supported in accommodation, by UK Government Office Region and Parliamentary Constituency" and "Asylum seekers in receipt of subsistence only support, by UK Government Office Region and Parliamentary Constituency". These regional breakdowns are available from December 2002.

The numbers of asylum seekers in receipt of support broken down by UK Government Office Region and local authority are also published on a quarterly and annual basis. Copies of these publications are available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the number of unsuccessful asylum seekers who are in the United Kingdom without leave to remain. [229903]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* No Government have ever been able to produce an accurate figure for the number of people who are in the country illegally and this includes failed asylum seekers. By its very nature it is impossible to quantify accurately and that remains the case.

As part of the Government's 10-point plan for delivery, by December 2008 the majority of foreign nationals will be counted in and out of the country. This is part of a sweeping programme of border protection which also includes the global roll-out of fingerprint visas, compulsory watch-list checks for all travellers from high-risk countries before they land in Britain and ID cards for foreign nationals.

On 19 June 2008, the Government set out its plans to more robustly enforce the immigration rules including the removal of those not entitled to be here. Copies of the document are placed in the Library of the House. It is also available to view at:

http://www.ind.homeoffice.gov.uk/?requestType=form&view=Search+results&simpleOrAdvanced=simple&page=1&contentType=All&searchTerm=enforcing+the+deal&Submit=Go

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people residing in the UK were originally granted asylum in another EU member state. [233621]

Mr. Woolas: This information is not available and could be obtained by examination of individual case records only at disproportionate cost.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those asylum seekers required to report to an immigration detention centre while their applications were being processed missed at least one appointment in *(a)* June and *(b)* September 2007. [163149]

Mr. Woolas: Records indicate that in both June and September 2007 9 per cent. of those asylum seekers required to report failed to do so at least once. This data is based on management information and is not a National Statistic. It should be treated as provisional as it is subject to change.

The information does not include asylum seekers reporting at police stations or failed asylum seekers who are subject to reporting restrictions. It refers to asylum seekers who have made an application for asylum and have not yet had an outcome.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications from Iraqis under the *(a)* locally engaged staff assistance scheme for resettlement in the UK and *(b)* Gateway Protection programme are awaiting evaluation. [233224]

Mr. Woolas: Under the locally engaged staff assistance scheme UKBA can receive applications from current staff seeking entry under the direct entry scheme or the Gateway Protection programme and applications from former staff seeking entry under the Gateway Protection programme.

(a) Seven applications from current staff, are awaiting evaluation under the direct entry scheme. There are no applications from current staff awaiting evaluation under the Gateway Protection programme.

(b) The Gateway Protection programme is wider than the locally engaged staff assistance scheme. Under Gateway 102 applications from former Iraqi staff are awaiting evaluation and a further 58 from Iraqi nationals who are not nor have ever been employed by HMG. This includes all applications where a final decision in accordance with the Gateway policy has yet to be made.

Border and Immigration Agency: Correspondence

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when the Parliamentary Business Unit of the Immigration and Nationality Department plans to reply to the hon. Member for Edinburgh West's correspondence of 17 July on his constituent Felicity Kalingizi. [228835]

Mr. Woolas: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 6 November 2008.

e-Borders: Consultancy Fees

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on consultancy fees related to the e-Borders project. [195135]

Mr. Woolas: The e-Borders programme has spent £36 million on consultancy fees since the inception of the pilot project for e-Borders in 2004.

Prior to contract award the expenditure on procurement was £31.4 million, and on Project Semaphore was an additional £4.6 million. Post contract award (14 November 2007) the cost of consultancy services has been substantially reduced to just £1 million.

British Nationality: Assessments

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many tests have been carried out at each of the accredited Life in the UK test centres in the Greater London area. [233687]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The following table shows how many Life in the UK tests were taken in each accredited centre in the Government region of London.

Tests taken: November 2005 to September 2008

Centre name	*Number of tests*
ABAAS Forest Gate	1,896
TBG Tower Hamlets	12,435
Anglo-British Academy of Advance Studies	12,567
Deltaclub Group	11,301
The Learning Line	11,527
Intech Centre	6,757
Southgate College	7,992
Best Computer Training—Whitechapel	6,371
Tottenham Learning Zone	16,475
HALS Wood Green Library	2,669
Exchange Group—Willesden	7,375
Akshar IT Centre	12,565
TBG Camden	3,260
The Sunrise Academy	16,[illegible]18
PDA (Training) Ltd.	12,316
London Community College	10,668
Greenwich Community College	3,370
Next Education Limited	8,969
Exchange Group—Wimbledon	7,998
A4e Westminster	20,025
Iranian Association	8,299
Exchange Group—Kensington	9,686

Tests taken: November 2005 to September 2008

Centre name	*Number of tests*
Orpington Learndirect Centre	3,764
Learning Curves	13,453
Exchange Group—Ilford	7,379
Harrow College Adult Learners Centre	11,169
Exchange Group—Morden	1,963
Computer Learning Centre	6,890
Training and Assessment Services	11,968
E-Link	10,146

Note:
Data supplied by University for Industry

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason it is proposed to reduce the number of Life in the UK test centres in the Greater London area. [233688]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The Life in the UK testing service is provided to UKBA by the University for Industry (Ufi) via a commercial contract. Contractually Ufi are required to maintain a minimum network of 28 test centres in the Government Region of London. As at 31 October there were 30 test centres.

The number and location of test centres is under constant review by Ufi and they have put a proposal to UKBA to reduce the minimum number of centres required in London to 21. UKBA is still considering the proposal and a decision is expected by the end of November.

Ufi are seeking to reduce the network as the number of tests taken has reduced from a peak of 43,000 in June 2007 to an average of 19,000 per month for the quarter ending September 2008.

Coastal Areas: Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the key crime indicators are in *(a)* each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales and *(b)* the super output layer ward with the (i) highest and (ii) lowest crime rates within each of those towns. [234940]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Information is not available in the form requested. The Home Office collects and publishes statistics for seven key offences for each local authority area in England and Wales. It is likely that some seaside towns will equate to the local authority area. The local authority data is available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/laa1b.xls

Although the Home Office does not currently collect recorded crime data at super output area (SOA) level for all police forces in England and Wales, data have been collected at this level for a selection of forces. These data are available on the neighbourhood statistics website at:

http://www.neighbourhood.statistics.gov.uk/dissemination/

The Home Office intends to extend the coverage of the SOA recorded crime data collection, with full England and Wales coverage expected to be available during 2009-10.

Crime

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the level of public fear of crime involving *(a)* theft of a car, *(b)* burglary and *(c)* a physical attack in each of the last 16 years. [234498]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The British Crime Survey (BCS) asks questions on worry about crime for three crime types: burglary, car crime and violent crime. The level of worry about burglary has been measured since 1992, and levels of worry about car crime and violent crime have been measured since 1998.

The latest figures from the 2007-08 BCS show that 12 per cent. of people report a high level of worry about each of burglary and car crime and 15 per cent. of people report a high level of worry about violent crime. Figures since 1992 are included in table 1 and can also be found in the Home Office statistical bulletin "Crime in England and Wales 2007/08", a copy of which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Table 1: Trends in worry about crime, 1992 to 2007-08, BCS

Ints

	1992	*1994*	*1996*	*1998*	*2000*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*Statistically significant change, 2006-07 to 2007-08*
Percentage with high level of worry about:													
Burglary	19	26	22	19	19	15	15	13	12	13	13	12	—
Car crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	22	21	17	17	15	13	14	13	12	—
Violent crime	n/a	n/a	n/a	25	24	22	21	16	16	17	17	15	—
Unweighted base[1]	10,044	14,502	7,973	14,925	19,388	32,765	36,427	37,872	45,046	47,713	47,122	46,888	—

[1] Unweighted bases refer to high levels of worry about burglary. Bases for violent crime will be similar but for car crime they will be slightly lower as based on those residing in households owning, or with regular use of, a vehicle only.

Crimes of Violence

Mr. Mark Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many incidents of violence against the person were recorded *(a)* in total and *(b)* per 1,000 of the population for (i) England, (ii) the Avon and Somerset Constabulary area and (iii) Bath and North East Somerset in each year from 1997 to 2008. [231456]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available information is given in the following tables. Bath and North East Somerset is a Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) area. Data for violence against the person at CDRP level are only available from 1999-2000 onwards.

Table 1: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—1997

Number of offences

Area	*Number of offences*	*Rate per 1,000 population*
England	231,441	5
Avon and Somerset	9,614	7
Bath and North East Somerset	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available

Table 2: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—1998-99 to 2001-02

Number of offences

Area	*England*	*Avon and Somerset*	*Bath and North East Somerset*
1998-99			
Number of offences	470,609	12,331	n/a
Rate per 1,000 population	10	8	n/a
1999-2000			
Number of offences	543,114	12,921	1,108
Rate per 1,000 population	11	9	7
2000-01			
Number of offences	562,679	15,376	1,198
Rate per 1,000 population	11	10	7
2001-02			
Number of offences	613,869	17,686	1,640
Rate per 1,000 population	12	12	10

n/a = Not available

Notes:

1. The coverage was extended and counting rules revised from 1998-99. Figures from that date are not directly comparable with those for 1997.
2. The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 3: Offences of violence against the person recorded by the police—2002-03 to 2007-08

Number of offences

Area	*England*	*Avon and Somerset*	*Bath and North East Somerset*
2002-03			
Number of offences	781,768	20,739	1,544
Rate per 1,000 population	16	14	9
2003-04			
Number of offences	902,732	26,530	2,000
Rate per 1,000 population	18	18	12
2004-05			
Number of offences	981,346	31,462	2,685
Rate per 1,000 population	20	21	16
2005-06			
Number of offences	992,612	30,496	2,877
Rate per 1,000 population	20	20	17
2006-07			
Number of offences	976,369	30,881	3,000
Rate per 1,000 population	19	20	17
2007-08			
Number of offences	896,287	27,147	2,857
Rate per 1,000 population	18	17	16

Note:

The data in this table take account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in April 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

Departmental Data Protection

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 25 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1253W, on departmental data protection, what criteria are applied to decide whether it is in the public interest to comment on breaches of security. [199918]

Mr. Woolas: Except in exceptional cases, when it is in the public interest, it has been the policy of successive Governments not to comment on breaches of security or the criteria used to decide such matters.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many press and communications officers are employed by *(a)* her Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies. [230042]

Mr. Woolas: Press and communications officers in the Home Office are employed at the Senior Information, Information and Assistant Information Officer grades.

The following table gives details of the staff currently employed by the Department and its agencies in these grades.

	Press Officers	*Communication Officers*	*Total*
Home Office	32	21	53
UKBA	6	23	29
Total	38	44	82

Other specialist and generalist staff across the organisation may have communications as a core part of their role, as good communication is integral to helping implement Government policy. However information on the numbers of staff in this category is not held centrally and could not be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Also data on staff employed by non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be collected only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for her Department. [233519]

Mr. Woolas: Press officers in the Home Office are employed at the senior information (SIO) and information officer (IO) grades. The total number of full-time equivalent press officers currently employed by the Department is 37.89 (this figure includes six regional press officers employed by UKBA).

Ministers undertaking engagements outside of London may also for short periods of time be assisted by press officers employed by the Government News Network (GNN). This assistance is demand led and information on the total amount of time spent in terms of full-time equivalents is not held centrally and cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors her Department's website received in 2007-08. [233522]

Mr. Woolas: Page hits and visitors to www.homeoffice.gov.uk and its sub-domains for 2007-08 can be found in the tables placed in the House Library.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the cost of maintaining her Department's website *(a)* was in 2007-08 and *(b)* is forecast to be in 2008-09. [233523]

Mr. Woolas: Running costs for www.homeoffice.gov.uk in 2007-08 are £620,000 (excluding staff costs). Running costs for www.homeoffice.gov.uk in 2008-09 are anticipated to be £620,000 (excluding staff costs).

Costs for all Home Office sites are embedded in budgets across the Department and could be extracted only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much was spent on entertainment by her Department in 2007-08; and how much of that was for *(a)* food, *(b)* alcohol, *(c)* staff and *(d)* accommodation. [233517]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office systems do not separately identify the costs of food, alcohol, staff and accommodation related to entertainment separately and they could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However we do retain records for hospitality provided by both civil servants and Ministers. The spend for 2007-08, the last 12 month period for which there are audited figures, was £58,156.

Home Office expenditure on official hospitality and entertainment conforms to departmental guidance on financial procedures and propriety, which complies with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety. Hospitality is defined as the provision of food, drink and entertainment of non civil servants where it is beneficial to the interests of the Department.

For the Department's agencies, the Criminal Records Bureau and the Identity and Passport Service's spend could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Deportation

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of those listed as being removed from the UK in 2006 were removed at a port; and if she will make a statement. [illegible]

Mr. Woolas: Of the 63,865 removals from the UK in 2006, 34,825 (55 per cent.) were persons refused entry at port and subsequently removed. This proves the success and strength of our border and juxtaposed controls. Figures are rounded to the nearest five and are provisional.

National Statistics on immigration and asylum are available from the Library of the House and the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Detention Centres

Ms Keeble: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to introduce mobile detention vans operated by the UK Border Agency on a national basis. [229928]

Mr. Woolas: The pilot of a mobile detention facility started in Northampton on 30 September and lasted for five weeks. The pilot covered the full range of operational scenarios our in-country enforcement officers face to test the facility's usefulness and how it complements, or adds to the existing fleet of vehicles available to the United Kingdom Border Agency.

The benefits will be assessed to determine whether the United Kingdom Border Agency wants to deploy additional vehicles of this specification in the future.

The mobile detention facility itself was adapted for this pilot from this existing fleet of vehicles, and on completion of the pilot it will continue to be available for operational tasking as required on a national basis.

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many sites her Department has identified as suitable for alternative to detention programmes for asylum seeking families; and when she expects those sites to become operational. [227551]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 20 October 2008]*: One site in Scotland has already been identified as suitable for a future A2D pilot and the location and start date will be announced when contractual negotiations are complete.

Detention Centres: Finance

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost of detaining *(a)* an adult and *(b)* a person under 16 years in an immigration centre for one year, broken down by category of cost. [231109]

Mr. Woolas: We do not differentiate costs between an adult and a person under 16-years-old in our immigration removal centres (IRC). The estimated average cost of holding a single person in an IRC is £130 per day.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people convicted of offences in England and Wales in the last year tested positive for illegal drug use upon arrest. [231220]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

The Home Office Drug Interventions programme (DIP) holds data on the number of people who test positive at arrest or charge in DIP intensive areas, and the offences for which they were arrested or charged. No information is available as to whether the individuals were convicted for the offence for which they were arrested or charged.

Drugs: Crime Prevention

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many crack house closures have taken place in each county in Wales in the last three years. [231607]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In the last three years, the information returned to the Home Office through the CDRP Survey for England and Wales shows that the county of Glamorgan issued three crack house closures (Cardiff city and county), Caernarfonshire issued one (Conwy county borough council), Monmouthshire issued two (Monmouthshire county council) and Denbighshire issued nine (Wrexham county borough council).

Genetics: Databases

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which private firms have successfully applied to use the national DNA database to help them develop computer programmes. [233401]

Mr. Alan Campbell: LGC and Cellmark have successfully applied for use of information from the national DNA database (NDNAD), to develop computer software to enhance use of the NDNAD and thus allow more suspects to be identified. Requests for the release of information must be approved by the NDNAD Strategy Board. The Police and Criminal Evidence Act 1984 lays down that DNA samples and the profiles derived from them can only be used for the purposes of prevention and detection of crime, the investigation of an offence, the conduct of a prosecution or, since April 2005, for the purposes of identifying a deceased person. In accordance with this, no information has been supplied to private firms to assist with the development of software for any other purpose. The information supplied from the NDNAD was anonymised, that is, no details that would enable individuals to be identified were supplied to the private companies.

Illegal Immigrants: Employment

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the Answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 267W, on illegal immigrants: employment, how many *(a)* arrests have been made and *(b)* enforcement actions commenced in respect of illegal migrant workers in each year since 2005. [231274]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 28 October 2008]*: The information requested is set out in the table at annex A.

Prior to April 2005 the UK Border Agency did not produce regular reports on numbers of individuals arrested. The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Annex A: Illegal working operational activity

	Total enforcement visits	*Number of arrests made*
2005-06	3,548	3,774
2006-07	5,412	4,065
2007-08	7,170	5,500

Note:
The data provided is management information. It may be subject to change and does not represent published national statistics.

Immigration

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals married under Sharia law outside the UK *(a)* were granted residence and *(b)* took up residence in the UK during each of the last five years. [231861]

Mr. Woolas: When considering applications for leave to enter or remain staff in the UK Border Agency must satisfy themselves that the applicant is validly married to the sponsor. The type of marriage is not recorded and therefore statistics are not available. I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 803W.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration her Department has given to abolishing unconditional leave to remain. [232901]

Mr. Woolas: We set out in the Green Paper "The Path to Citizenship" that there would be three routes to citizenship—economic, family and protection—and a clear three-stage journey through temporary residence, a new stage of probationary citizenship and then British citizenship or permanent residence. Consideration is being given to each stage.

Immigration: Community Work

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department with reference to proposals to allow migrants who take part in community work to serve a shorter period before getting a UK passport, which public sector agencies will monitor the validity of the community work. [233404]

Mr. Woolas: We want migrants who wish to make the UK their long-term home to integrate fully into our society and we want to reward migrants who make an effort to be active citizens with a quicker path to citizenship.

We have established a group with representatives from local government and the third sector to help us identify the most effective and practical way of implementing the proposal, including the most appropriate way we can verify that activities have taken place.

Immigration: Criminal Records

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many non-UK nationals with exceptional leave to remain were *(a)* granted and *(b)* refused the right of settlement in the UK in each year since 1997; and in how many cases a refusal was on the grounds of a criminal conviction in the UK. [233094]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* Grants of settlement 1997-2007 to persons previously granted exceptional leave to remain in the United Kingdom are published in Table 5.3 of the Home Office Statistical Bulletin "Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom 2007".

This publication is available in the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1008.pdf

The Home Office does not collate statistics on the number of people with exceptional leave to remain who have been refused settlement in the UK and whether the reason for refusal was on the grounds of having a criminal conviction in the UK. The information requested could be obtained only at disproportionate cost by undertaking a search of case files of all individuals with exceptional leave to remain who have applied for settlement in the UK since 1997.

Table 5.3 Grants of settlement by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1, 2], 1997-2007, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Category of grant	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[4]*	*2005*	*2006R*	*2007[5], P*
Grants in own right or on a discretionary basis (excluding spouses and dependants)											
On completion of four/five years[3]:											
in employment with a work permit	2,640	[illegible]	[illegible]	4,455	4,335	5,845	9,190	16,205	25,470	11,270	15,165
in permit free employment	[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]	1,415	890	980	1,325	1,325	1,625	670	790
as business or self employed, or as persons of independent means	205	200	130	260	160	115	230	220	320	2,595	75
Commonwealth citizens with a United Kingdom born grandparent, taking or seeking employment	1,110	1,075	2,280	2,580	3,255	4,060	5,275	4,755	4,795	1,900	1,675
British overseas citizens with special vouchers	220	170	220	100	140	60	*	5	*	*	—
Refugees and persons given exceptional leave to remain	4,830	6,675	[illegible]	25,355	17,965	18,235	12,185	19,025	33,850	19,075	10,250
Of which:											
recognised refugees	[illegible]	4,270	[illegible]	[11]25,355	[11]17,965	10,955	4,875	1,695	1,230	40	30

Table 5.3 Grants of settlement by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1, 2], 1997-2007, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Category of grant	*1997[7]*	*1998[7]*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[8]*	*2005*	*2006R*	*2007[7], P*
persons given exceptional leave to remain	2,425	2,405	[13]—	[13]—	[13]—	7,280	7,310	8,545	21,840	14,555	8,850
granted under the Family ILR exercise[9]	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	8,785	10,780	3,975	215
other asylum-related grants	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	500	1,155
Other grants on a discretionary basis[10]	2,160	3,700	2,580	6,150	4,190	6,730	10,860	4,075	4,050	6,155	8,785
Total granted in own right or on a discretionary basis[11]	12,145	16,435	31,665	40,380	30,935	36,020	39,065	45,615	70,105	41,670	36,745
Spouses and dependants											
Husbands:											
settled on arrival	15	10	15	25	55	45	85	785	560	445	325
settled on removal of time limit	11,240	13,620	15,370	15,730	17,780	16,640	19,210	11,860	15,195	18,105	17,750
Of which:											
on basis of marriage[12]	10,700	13,010	14,565	14,460	16,850	15,470	17,275	7,985	8,540	15,185	13,495
at same time as wife	540	610	805	1,270	930	1,170	1,935	3,875	6,660	2,915	4,250
Total husbands	11,260	13,635	15,385	15,755	17,835	16,685	19,295	12,645	15,760	18,550	18,070
Wives:											
settled on arrival	150	125	150	165	240	190	275	2,450	2,080	1,300	795
settled on removal of time limit	20,250	22,165	24,800	30,750	30,745	30,535	37,480	22,780	28,130	33,170	28,330
of which:											
on basis of marriage[12]	16,160	18,390	19,945	24,100	26,590	24,930	30,560	12,520	15,205	26,365	22,405
at same time as husband	4,090	3,775	4,855	6,655	4,155	5,605	6,920	10,260	12,925	6,805	5,925
Total wives	20,400	22,290	24,950	30,920	30,985	30,725	37,750	25,230	30,210	34,470	29,125
Children:											
settled on arrival	1,535	1,430	1,710	1,520	1,730	1,505	1,590	7,485	5,385	5,105	4,390
settled on removal of time limit:	9,985	10,850	17,725	27,485	18,400	19,725	25,800	33,330	40,060	20,560	25,830
Of which:											
with parent accepted on basis of marriage	1,395	1,615	2,005	3,580	3,830	3,420	4,560	1,925	2,125	3,315	2,990
other	8,590	9,235	15,720	23,900	14,570	16,305	21,245	31,405	37,935	17,245	22,840
Total children	11,520	12,280	19,435	29,005	20,130	21,235	27,395	40,815	45,445	25,665	30,220
Parents and grandparents joining children or grandchildren:											
settled on arrival	295	285	265	265	295	215	90	100	260	405	355
settled on removal of time limit:	885	1,050	815	2,175	1,465	1,530	3,020	1,885	1,185	1,060	645

Table 5.3 Grants of settlement by category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[1] [2], 1997-2007, United Kingdom

Number of persons

Category of grant	*1997[3]*	*1998[8]*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004[4]*	*2005*	*2006 R*	*2007[5], P*
Other and unspecified dependants[11]	1,870	3,510	4,380	7,150	8,600	6,940	6,360	8,405	11,520	8,050	5,785
Total spouses and dependants	46,230	53,045	66,225	85,265	77,305	77,335	93,910	89,080	104,380	88,205	84,200
Claim to right of abode upheld and other grants	350	310	230	295	170	120	130	75	70	135	25
Category unknown[14]	—	—	—	—	—	2,490	6,175	4,440	4,565	4,440	3,880
Total	58,725	69,790	97,115	125,945	108,410	115,965	139,280	139,210	179,120	134,445	124,855

[1] Swiss nationals are excluded from 1 June 2002—see Explanatory Notes and Definitions, paragraph 10.

[2] Data from 2003 also exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence—see Explanatory Notes and Definitions, paragraph 12.

[3] Includes a small number of EEA nationals.

[4] Includes nationals of Cyprus, Czech Republic, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta, Poland, Slovakia and Slovenia before 1 May 2004, but excludes them from this date.

[5] Excludes Bulgaria and Romania.

[6] In 2006, the qualifying period for settlement in all employment-related categories changed from four to five years. See Changes Affecting Statistics of Immigration Control, paragraph 2 (xv).

[7] Includes ministers of religion, writers and artists.

[8] Includes persons granted settlement under measures aimed at reducing the pre-July backlog as announced in the White Paper in July 1998.

[9] Included In "other asylum-related grants" from April 2007.

[10] Data for 2007 include persons granted indefinite leave outside the immigration rules under measures aimed at clearing the backlog of outstanding unresolved cases. See Changes Affecting Statistics of Immigration Control, paragraph 2 (xvi).

[11] Includes Commonwealth citizens ordinarily resident on 1 January 1973 and for five years.

[12] Includes civil and unmarried partners.

[13] Data from 27 July 1998 to 2002 include husbands, wives and children of port asylum seekers given indefinite leave to enter.

[14] See Explanatory Notes and Definitions, paragraphs 3 and 4.

[?] Indicates break.

Members: Correspondence

Janet Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) when she expects the Minister for Immigration to reply to the letter of 5 February 2008 from the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen on meeting the hon. Member and my hon. Friend the Member for Hyndburn (Mr. Pope) to discuss the case of Aso Mohammed Ibrahim; [191616]

(2) when she will answer the Question tabled on 28 February 2008 by the hon. Member for Rossendale and Darwen on the case of Aso Mohammed Ibrahim; and what the reasons are for the time taken to provide a reply. [203341]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 1 May 2008]:* A response was sent to my hon. Friend on 8 September 2008.

Offences Against Children

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* male and *(b)* female victims of childhood sexual abuse there were in each of the last 10 years. [232302]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The recorded crime statistics are based on legal definitions and the available statistics for sexual offences where the victim can be identified as a child are given in the following tables. We are only able to identify the sex of the victim for offences of rape.

Table 1: Selected sexual offences recorded by the police In England and Wales, 1998-99 to 2001-02[1]

Offence	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rape of a female child under 16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rape of a female child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rape of a male child under 16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Rape of a male child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	153	181	155	189
Sexual activity involving a child under 13	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16	1,135	1,270	1,237	1,328
Sexual activity involving a child under 16	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Gross indecency with a child	1,293	1,365	1,336	1,654

n/a = not available

[1] The data in this table are prior to the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard. These figures are not directly comparable with those for later years.

Table 2: Selected sexual offences recorded by the police in England and Wales, 2002-03 to 2007-08[1, 2]

Offence	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Sexual assault on a male child under 13	n/a	n/a	1,227	1,394	1,237	1,118
Rape of a female child under 16	n/a	n/a	3,014	3,153	2,853	2,418
Rape of a female child under 13	n/a	n/a	970	1,388	1,524	1,472
Rape of a male child under 16	n/a	n/a	322	292	261	235
Rape of a male child under 13	n/a	n/a	297	364	458	427
Sexual assault on a female child under 13	n/a	n/a	4,391	4,647	4,245	3,976
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 13	183	212	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Sexual activity involving a child under 13	n/a	n/a	1,510	1,950	1,936	1,836
Unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16[3]	1,515	1,911	436	138	67	33
Sexual activity involving a child under 16	n/a	n/a	2,566	3,283	3,208	3,100
Abuse of children through prostitution and pornography	n/a	n/a	99	124	101	110
Gross indecency with a child[3]	1,917	1,987	398	120	64	150

n/a = not available

[1] The data in this table takes account of the introduction of the National Crime Recording Standard in 2002. These figures are not directly comparable with those for earlier years.

[2] The Sexual Offences Act 2003 introduced in May 2004 altered the definition and coverage of sexual offences.

[3] A small number of offences continue to be recorded relating to offences repealed by the Sexual Offences Act 2003; while these may continue to be legitimately recorded for offences committed prior to May 2004 it is also possible that some may have been recorded in these old categories in error, so recent changes based on small numbers should be interpreted with caution.

Offenders: Deportation

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many foreign nationals who have been convicted of a crime in the UK are awaiting deportation. [232384]

Mr. Woolas: Case law and existing policy means that the UK Border Agency are only able to give consideration as to whether a foreign national who has committed a crime within the United Kingdom should be subject to deportation action until 12 months before the end of an individual's sentence, except when their sentence length is shorter. As such the information requested is not available as it is not possible to provide an indication as to the eventual outcome of the case for a foreign prisoner who is currently serving their sentence.

The chief executive of the UK Border Agency has regularly written to the Home Affairs Committee with the most robust and accurate information available. Copies of her letters are available in the Library of the House.

Having exceeded the Prime Minister's target of 4,000 deportations or removals of foreign prisoners in 2007, the Agency has now been set an even tougher target and aims to remove or deport more than 5,000 foreign prisoners in 2008. In the first six months of this year, the Agency had deported or removed nearly 2,500 which is a record performance, 22 per cent. higher than for the same period in 2007 and nearly 140 per cent. higher than in 2006.

Offensive Weapons: Arrests

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people aged 16 years and under were arrested for carrying knives in *(a)* Peterborough, *(b)* Cambridgeshire and *(c)* England and Wales in the last year for which figures are available. [234416]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify knife possession offences from within the main offence groups.

Personal Records

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on how many occasions in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997 an individual was unable to leave the UK owing to the loss of relevant documents by her Department. [233309]

Mr. Woolas: This information cannot be provided because details of individuals unable to leave the UK owing to missing documents are not held centrally

Police: Licensed Premises

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on licensed premises which open late being required to make a contribution to costs of policing those premises; and if she will make a statement. [229429]

Mr. Alan Campbell *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* A licensed premises which is open 'late' is not necessarily a problem premises. If a licensed premises is found to be breaching one of the four licensing objectives, then it may be reviewed (following application by a responsible authority such as the police, or an interested party such as a local resident) and conditions may be applied to solve the problem. The premises may also have its licensable activities curtailed if this is deemed necessary e.g. a reduction in hours for the sale of alcohol or, in more serious cases, suspension or revocation of the licence.

However, the Government introduced Alcohol Disorder Zones (ADZs) in the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006, and the powers were commenced in June 2008. ADZs provide police and local authorities with a measure of last resort for tackling high levels of alcohol related nuisance or disorder in parts of town and city centres where all other voluntary and statutory approaches have been exhausted.

ADZs are designed to allow police and local authorities to agree and implement an action plan with licensees in a designated area, subject to consultation, to tackle alcohol related crime and disorder linked to the misuse of alcohol in the public space. If the action plan is not implemented, charges can be levied for specified enforcement activity by statutory agencies including the police.

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many drugs seizures have been made by officers at the Serious Organised Crime Agency in each of the last two years. [232297]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The data below relate to individual seizures of Class A, B and C drugs, cutting agents and drugs precursor chemicals. If two different commodities are seized at the same time, that counts as two seizures.

SOCA has no powers itself to seize drugs outside the UK, therefore interdictions overseas involve SOCA providing key intelligence and/or operational support to others, not undertaking the physical act itself. At home, SOCA works collaboratively with UK police forces, HMRC and the UK Border Agency. Decisions on the interdiction phases of such joint operational activity are made according to local or operational imperatives, including protecting the use of sensitive intelligence sources.

Seizures in SOCA operations

	UK	Abroad/at sea
2007-08	186	360
2008-09[1]	91	198

[1] To 30 September 2008

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Finance

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the budget for the Serious Organised Crime Agency in 2008-09 is; and what proportion is committed to central administration. [232900]

Mr. Alan Campbell: In 2008-09, the Home Office near-cash allocation to SOCA is £404.5 million and the near-cash spend on general administration, as opposed to operational services, is £25.5 million (6.3 per cent.).

Serious Organised Crime Agency: Manpower

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people the Serious Organised Crime Agency employs; and what proportion are engaged in counter-narcotics activities. [232891]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The number of full-time equivalent staff employed by SOCA at 30 September 2008 was 3,976.

For 2008-09 the SOCA Board has determined that SOCA should aim to apportion about 43 per cent. of its effort to tackling drug trafficking. As of 30 September 2008 the year to date figure exceeded 46 per cent. In addition, other activities undertaken by SOCA, such as work to tackle criminal finances and support given to partners, are helping to tackle this trade.

Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in what circumstances records of shoplifting offences are kept. [234869]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Police are required to record allegations of crime in accordance with the National Crime Recording Standard and Home Office Counting Rules. These are both public documents available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/countrules.html

Shoplifting is specifically covered under Classification 46 of the Home Office Counting Rules where it states that theft of any property within a shop whether or not it is for sale should be recorded as theft from a shop. Further advice on what constitutes a shop unit, legal definition of theft and appropriate examples are also included.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the maximum retention period is for data collected from automatic number plate recognition cameras operated by her Department and its agencies. [235019]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The current Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) policy states that automatic number plate recognition (ANPR) data should only be retained for as long as there is an operational need to do so.

In general, ANPR data is retained for the first 90 days after collection, for viewing by authorised persons for post-crime interrogation and investigation. This enables investigations to use the ANPR tool to identify suspects, witnesses or patterns.

Data that are more than 90-days-old may then be retained for up to two years. However, these data are partitioned from general viewing. There is a management mechanism in place which means that a senior officer (Superintendent or above) must authorise any access to data older than 90 days. This authorisation is restricted to serious crime and counter-terrorism investigations only.

ACPO is currently revising its guidance around data retention in the light of advances with regard to the National ANPR Data Centre and the increased use of analytical software tools.

UK Border Agency: Manpower

Damian Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department which *(a)* grades and *(b)* job descriptions in the UK Border Agency are operating at under their established complement. [226056]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency has not set staffing complements by *(a)* grades or *(b)* job descriptions. The UK Border Agency deploys its personnel according to operational need and business priorities, recruiting where necessary to ensure that there are sufficient employees to meet those needs within agreed budgets.

The UK Border Agency's forecast for active workforce for 2008-09 was 17,700 full-time equivalent workers for the former Border and Immigration Agency, to which should now be added 2,300 UK Visas and 4,700 HMRC employees. The number of full-time equivalent active workforce equivalent to the 17,700, the former Border and Immigration Agency, at the end of September 2008 was 17,510.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much the UK Border Agency and its predecessors spent on *(a)* permanent and *(b)* casual staff in each of the last five years. [227494]

Mr. Woolas: The amount that the UK Border Agency spent on full-time and casual staff in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. The computerised accounting system does not record the pay of casual staff as a separate item.

Financial year	*Pay cost (£)*
2007-08	611,598,486.53
2006-07	566,301,623.78
2005-06	513,281,187.52
2004-05	470,275,994

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* permanent and *(b)* casual staff have been employed by the UK Border Agency specifically to clear the immigration backlog; and at what cost. [227496]

Mr. Woolas: The case resolution directorate (CRD) was set up to deal specifically with the backlog of cases. It has at present no casual staff and the number of full-time equivalent staff that have been employed there are shown in the following table. The budgeted operating costs for CRD for 2008-09 are £28.2 million.

	Workforce[1]
30 September 2008	972.56[1]
31 March 2008	1,013.06
1 April 2007	838.71

[1] Full-time equivalent figures, excludes staff on career break, loan to other Government Departments, maternity leave, etc.

Note:

Figures have been taken from the central HO personnel system ADELPHI.

Work Permits

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the effect of the introduction of the points-based system on the number of work permits issued to non UK nationals. [233089]

Mr. Woolas: The Government have conducted detailed impact assessments on the proposals outlined in Statement of Intent on Tier 2 skilled Workers under the points based system. Tier 2 will replace the current Work Permit System on 27 November 2008.

Analysis has shown that had Tier 2 of the points based system been in place last year, around 12 per cent. fewer skilled migrants from outside Europe would have been allowed in through the equivalent work permit route.

Both the Statement of Intent and the Impact Assessment are available on the UK Border Agency website and in the Libraries of both Houses.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234698]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no plans to use Airwave handsets, and has no organisations for which we are responsible who either use or plan to use these handsets.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 211W, on departmental conditions of employment, how many employees at each location took their two week break away from post *(a)* within their home country and *(b)* outside their home country in each year since 2002. [234293]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Employees working in Iraq and Afghanistan are entitled to a two week break away from post for every six weeks worked.

During a posting, employees can use each breather break to either return to their home country or travel to an alternative location.

The following table provides information on the number of visits taken in each of the last three years:

	Two week break in home country	*Two week break outside their home country*
2006[1]	45	17
2007	60	38
2008	61	34

[1] Figures from Afghanistan are from March 2006

Information on previous years could be collated only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer to my right hon. and learned Friend the Member for Devizes (Mr. Ancram) of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 569W, on departmental public relations, what the purpose was of the communications division contract in 2007-08; and to which organisation the contract was given. [233643]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The contract was given to Munro and Forster Communications Ltd. and was for a range of marketing activities aimed at raising awareness among the UK public of the importance of trade and development for reducing poverty.

Lebanon: Asylum

Lyn Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his Department's international partners and *(b)* non-governmental organisations on the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bar[illegible] refugee camp in Lebanon. [233320]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK was represented at the donor pledging conference for the reconstruction of the Nahr el-Bared Refugee Camp on 23 June and committed $1 million. The Department for International Development (DFID) has been in contact with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA), as the agency tasked with leading the response, in recent weeks to discuss the reconstruction, humanitarian situation and how far donors have responded. DFID is providing £100 million over five years from 2007 to support UNRWA's operations in the region of which approximately £4 million is annually allocated to Lebanon. DFID also engages with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) on Nahr el-Bared and in Lebanon more broadly. ICRC are one of the key partners providing water to the camp.

The British embassy in Beirut attends UNRWA monthly meetings and ad hoc briefings with other EU donors, most recently in October. The ambassador is in contact with UNRWA and last had an update from the new head of its Lebanon operations on 23 October.

Rwanda: Overseas Aid

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what measures are in place to ensure that his Department's aid to the Republic of Rwanda is spent on those purposes for which it was intended. [233622]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Our aid to the Republic of Rwanda is driven by a bilateral development partnership agreement (MOU). This requires the continuous commitment of the Rwandan Government to reducing poverty, honouring international obligations and respecting human rights, and strengthening financial management and accountability. These commitments are monitored closely by staff in-country and any breech could lead to suspension of our programme.

The majority of our aid in Rwanda is in the form of budget support and we monitor how this is spent in great detail. This involves close examination of both budget allocations and budget execution performance. Budget allocations are approved by budget support donors in advance of the passage of the budget law through the Cabinet and Parliament which ensures our money is spent on its intended purpose. Additional safeguards are provided by the examination of audited government accounts, and by periodic public expenditure reviews and public expenditure tracking surveys.

The impact of the resources spent is monitored annually using a broad based common performance assessment framework (CPAF) which has indicators on poverty and development, service delivery, and governance. The CPAF derives its information from surveys and management information systems, and is used by all budget support donors to monitor progress of the implementation of the Government of Rwanda's PRSP (the economic development and poverty reduction strategy (EDPRS)).

Yemen: Floods

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of people *(a)* killed and *(b)* displaced by the recent flooding in Yemen. [233344]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Yemeni Ministry of Planning and International Co-operation has estimated that 184 people lost their lives as a result of the floods in south-eastern Yemen from 23 to 25 October 2008, and that 25,000 people were displaced in Hadramaut Governorate alone. There are currently no figures available for the less-affected areas of Chaboua and Al Mahrah. Overall, however, there is little clarity on the exact numbers of those affected.

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what humanitarian assistance his Department has provided to Southern Yemen following the recent flooding in the region; and what steps he plans to take to prevent loss of life. [233345]

Mr. Michael Foster: At present, there is still little clarity about the exact impact of the flooding in south-eastern Yemen on 23 to 25 October 2008, and about the gaps in humanitarian assistance already provided. Early reports suggest that immediate humanitarian needs are being met by the Government of Yemen, and UN agencies and NGOs are already active on the ground and providing emergency relief. A number of Gulf States have already made substantial contributions, including Saudi Arabia which has pledged $100 million.

A UN rapid humanitarian assessment team is due to report back on relief and recovery needs to the Government of Yemen and the international community on 6 November. At this stage, a decision may be taken on whether to launch an emergency appeal for assistance. DFID is in close contact with partners in Yemen, and stands ready to respond to this appeal if necessary. We are also monitoring other ongoing humanitarian needs in Yemen, including the impact of higher food prices and the conflict in Sa'dah earlier this year.

Yemen: Politics and Government

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what consideration he has given to the establishment of an assessment team to report on the humanitarian situation in Yemen similar to the one sent to assess the situation in Sri Lanka; and under what circumstances such assessment teams are deployed. [233343]

Mr. Michael Foster: Following the floods in eastern Yemen from 23 to 25 October 2008, the Department for International Development (DFID) stands ready to provide assistance in response to requests from the Government of Yemen and the United Nations. DFID has not sent its own assessment team to the region, because we are able to rely on reports from UN, the World Bank and NGOs. These organisations are already active in affected areas and have good access to the region. They have sent rapid assessment teams to assess immediate and long term needs; the first of these by the UN Resident Co-ordinator will report back to the Government of Yemen and the international community on 6 November.

Unlike in Sri Lanka, DFID already has an office in country, and our staff are in close contact with the Government of Yemen, the UN and other organisations involved in the relief process.

Decisions to deploy DFID humanitarian assessment teams are made on a case-by-case basis, but we take into account the nature and scale of humanitarian needs, the personal security of the DFID team, and the activities of other international organisations on the ground.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations: Water

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when she expects to publish the results of the consultation on changes to Part G (Hygiene) of the Building Regulations 2000. [234885]

Mr. Iain Wright: The analysis of the responses to the Part G consultation is now complete. I am to ensure that the report on the consultation setting out the responses will be published later this month.

Community Relations: Gloucester

Mr. Dhanda: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what preventing violent extremism funding has been made available for Gloucester. [234881]

John Healey: Gloucester city council will receive £100,000 in funding in 2010-11 through their area based grant.

Council Housing: Rents

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason she proposes that local authority rents should rise to levels set by registered social landlords; and if she will make it her policy to return to pooled historic cost averaging as a basis for rent fixing. [234342]

Mr. Iain Wright: Rent restructuring has been in place since 2002. Prior to its introduction there was no standard method of setting rents in England, leading to very different rents being charged between neighbouring local authorities and between local authorities and housing associations in the same local area, with no clear justification.

Although we are encouraging social landlords to adopt the reforms, individual housing associations and local authorities remain responsible for rent setting. They can set whatever rents they consider reasonable in discussion with their tenants.

Rent restructuring is intended to make rent setting fair and transparent, it aims to keep rents affordable, well below those in the private sector, and at similar levels for similar properties.

Rents and rent-setting policy is one of the items being looked at as part of our Review of Council Housing Finance. We do not intend to revisit rent policy before this review is complete.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of employees in her Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233824]

Hazel Blears: All staff in Communities and Local Government can choose to work flexibly, should they so wish. We are committed to flexible working and our flexible working policy sets out a presumption in favour of flexible working patterns—the onus is on the line management to demonstrate where part-time or home working is not appropriate.

The Department does not at present hold data on the specific details of flexible working such as job sharing and home working. We are, however, putting systems in place at present, to record this data electronically.

Housing Starts

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of council houses which will be built in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; and what steps she plans to take to increase the rate of council house building. [234357]

Mr. Iain Wright: We have announced our intention to change the revenue and capital rules which apply to new council homes in order to remove financial disincentives to new build by local authorities. On 2 September we announced that we will invite all stock-owning local authorities to compete for grant on the same terms as those with special purpose vehicles, in addition to those who have ALMOs or have set up Special Purpose Vehicles for this purpose.

We have also introduced other measures to make it easier for councils to build and acquire new homes. Section 313 of the Housing and Regeneration Act 2008 provides that councils can keep the full rental income from new council homes (including newly built and newly acquired properties).

We expect to consult shortly on the use of section 313 power and the capital receipts regulations which aim to enable councils to benefit in full from rental income or sales receipts from properties that have been built or acquired since this planned change to these rules.

The Government do not publish forecasts for house-building.

Housing: Construction

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build homes were constructed by local authorities in each year since 1997. [234926]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new build dwellings completed by local authorities in each year since 1997.

	Number of dwellings
1997	290
1998	250
1999	50
2000	100
2001	170
2002	170
2003	180
2004	140
2005	180

	Number of dwellings
2006	290
2007	350
2008	200

Source:
New build completions from P2 monthly and quarterly returns submitted by local authorities. The local authority level figures are as reported and do not include estimates for missing returns.

Housing: Low Incomes

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many social homes there are in North Devon constituency; and how many there were in each of the last five years; [234414]

(2) how many people are on waiting lists for social housing in North Devon constituency. [234413]

Mr. Iain Wright: Information on the number of social dwellings owned by registered social landlords (RSLs) and local authorities are published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 115 and Table 116 respectively at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140879.xls

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/140882.xls

Information is not available at constituency level, but North Devon falls within North Devon local authority area. All social dwellings in North Devon are owned by RSLs, though the local authority reported two dwellings in 2004-05 and one dwelling in 2005-06 in their Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) annual return. The number on number of social dwellings owned by registered social landlords from 2002 to 2006 is given in the following table.

Dwelling stock owned by registered social landlord 2002-06

	Number of self-contained units/bedspaces				
	2002	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
North Devon	3,655	4,192	4,174	4,219	4,213

Source:
Housing Corporation via the annual Regulatory and Statistical Return (RSR)(as found in CLG live table 115)

Information about social housing waiting lists is collected in respect of households rather than individuals. Where local authorities and registered social landlords operate a common register, households registered with the RSL will be included in the data. However, registered social landlords are independent bodies and can keep their own waiting lists. Information on the number of households on local authorities' waiting lists broken down by Government office region and local authority for 1997 to 2007 is published on the Communities and Local Government website in Table 600 at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/144458.xls.

Copies of this table have been deposited in the Library of the House.

At 1 April 2007, the number of households on the local authority housing waiting list in North Devon was 4,340.

Local authorities in England report the number of households on their housing waiting list as at 1 April in their annual Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix returns.

The size of the waiting list is not an indicator of absolute need; it is only useful as a broad indicator of housing demand in an area. Not everyone on the waiting list is necessarily in urgent housing need. The waiting list includes those who consider social housing as their preferred or one of a number of housing options, and those who decide to get onto the waiting list ladder before they need or want to move house.

Housing: Standards

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which local authorities she expects will fail to meet the decent homes target by 2010; and how many authorities have informed her Department that they are selling council housing in order to raise funding to meet the target. [234311]

Mr. Iain Wright: Details of when we expect each local authority to deliver decent homes were provided in my answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 946W.

Decisions relating to the management of, and investment in, council housing stock are matters entirely for the local authority.

In 2007-08, of the 218 authorities who still operated a Housing Revenue Account 154 undertook some voluntary sale of dwellings to create a capital receipt. We do not hold any systematic data on how many of these used these receipts to invest in delivering decent homes.

The only systematic records we hold are where an authority creates a useable capital receipt from the voluntary sale (not a sale through RTB) of dwellings held within the HRA we do not systematically record precisely what they have used the receipt for—however if the authority wishes to retain the full receipt, rather than returning 50 per cent. to the Secretary of State for pooling, the receipt must be invested in either affordable housing or regeneration but this does not necessarily mean it is used to deliver decent homes.

We do not hold any data on which local authorities are planning to dispose of dwellings in order to create a capital receipt.

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* social sector households and *(b)* vulnerable households in the private sector living in accommodation below the decent homes standards in each year since 1996. [234502]

Mr. Iain Wright: The number of social sector, and private sector vulnerable households, living in non-decent homes 1996-2006 is provided in the table. Vulnerable households are households in receipt of at least one of the principal means tested or disability related benefits. These figures were published in the English House Condition Survey 2006: Headline Report in January 2008.

These figures are based on the original definition of decent homes incorporating the fitness standard as the statutory component.

The fitness standard was replaced by the Housing Health and Safety Rating System in 2006 and the latter was incorporated in the updated definition of decent homes for that year. However, figures are only available for 2006 using the updated definition.

Table 1: Number of social sector and private sector vulnerable households living in non-decent homes, 1996-2006

	Social sector households		Private sector vulnerable households	
	Number (Thousand)	Percentage	Number (Thousand)	Percentage
1996	2,318	52.6	1,433	57.1
2001	1,647	38.9	1,151	42.7
2003	1,442	35.4	1,056	37.2
2004	1,252	31.3	1,033	34.5
2005	1,162	29.2	1,071	33.9
2006	1,131	28.7	1,012	32.0

Note:

Decent homes definition incorporating fitness as the statutory component.

Source:

English House Condition Survey, 2006

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many residential properties are classed as uninhabitable in each *(a)* region and *(b)* local authority area. [234680]

Mr. Iain Wright: This information requested is not held centrally.

Second Homes: Cornwall

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what percentage of homes in Cornwall are registered as second homes. [234042]

John Healey: There were 13,201 properties registered as second homes for council tax purposes in Cornwall in October 2007. This is 5.4 per cent. of the total number of dwellings in Cornwall at that time.

The data are from a snapshot taken each year and are as recorded, in council tax base returns submitted annually, by each local authority.

Shared Ownership Schemes

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department has allocated for shared ownership schemes for key workers in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [234156]

Mr. Iain Wright: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne (Julia Goldsworthy) on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 951W.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his objectives are for military action in Helmand province in *(a)* the next three months, *(b)* the next six months and *(c)* the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [233669]

Mr. Hutton: I am withholding details of our short term military objectives for operational security reasons. However, all military action in Helmand is fully integrated as part of the comprehensive approach. This also includes, as stated by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 12 December 2007, *Official Report*, column 303, a long-term framework for security, political, social and economic development for Afghanistan.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many flights transporting service personnel to Britain from theatre in Afghanistan have been *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* delayed in each year since 2006. [234391]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows the punctuality statistics for RAF Tristar passenger flights returning from Kandahar, Afghanistan to Brize Norton. Unlike the civil air sector which measures departure punctuality the MOD chooses to measure the punctuality of arrival at the destination airfield, in this case Brize Norton.

	Number of flights	*On time*[1]	*Between one to three hours of schedule*	*Delayed between three to six hours of schedule*	*Delayed over six hours*
14 February 2006 to 31 December 2006 (date reflects start of service in 2006)	156	88	20	10	38
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	225	164	23	8	30
1 January 2008 to 31 October 2008	215	121	27	30	37

[1] Defined as within one hour of schedule

Flights will only be cancelled from the schedule if the requirement ceases. Potential causes of delay include bad weather, technical delays to ensure flight safety and the need to divert aero-medical cases direct to Birmingham airport. In the event of a protracted delay, where practicable, an alternative means will be found to move passengers.

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234704]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The following Defence organisations currently use Airwave handsets:

British armed forces units based in the UK mainland (for operations, security, policing, health and safety purposes);

MOD Police and Guarding Agency (MOD Police and MOD Guard Service);

Nuclear Accident Response Organisation (NARO) (covering all MOD nuclear sites).

In addition, allied forces based in or transiting through the UK mainland with functions identical to MOD organisations that use Airwave handsets could potentially use Airwave handsets in the future. Airwave might also be used in the context of military prisoner transportation, armaments transportation and Defence medical services.

Armed Forces: Discharges

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many service personnel have been discharged on medical grounds in each year since 2001. [234919]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The number of service personnel medically discharged each year since 2001 is provided in the following table.

Naval service, Army and RAF medical discharges, numbers[1] 2001-07

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Naval service[2]	415	390	320	380	395	355	350
Army	1,035	1,020	1,000	1,085	1,045	1,010	1,000
RAF	185	135	250	200	205	240	230

[1] Numbers may not add up to the sum of their parts due to rounding.

[2] Includes the Royal Navy and the Royal Marines

The processes for administering a medical discharge differ between the three services and as a consequence the numbers have been presented by service rather than annual tri-service totals.

Armed Forces: Uniforms

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the outcome of the meeting with clothing specialists held in his Department on 23 October 2008 was; and what progress has been made in finding a substitute for bearskin caps. [232800]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The industry day held on 23 October to assess the market's appetite and capability to develop a faux fur replacement for the bearskin cap was attended by six companies. The industry representatives were able to gain a clear understanding of the technical challenges involved, and expressed a keenness to contribute to a successful outcome if at all possible.

MOD intends to place a development contract with one or more suppliers through competition. An invitation to tender is likely to be issued early in 2009 with contract award likely to be mid 2009. Due to the complexities of producing a faux fur with no discernable difference from real bear fur in appearance and behaviour, it is possible that development and trialling by the customer may take longer.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 28-30WS, on protected mobility, if he will break down by category of expenditure the cost of each armoured vehicle type. [234310]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Contract negotiations for the procurement of new vehicles are still to be finalised and I am therefore unable to confirm the exact cost of each acquisition, although the costs are expected to be in the region of:

	£ million
Additional Jackal	75
Warthog	140
Panther Theatre Entry Standard modifications	70
Snatch Vixen upgrade	30
Coyote	65
Husky	170
Wolfhound	120

We have also approved £96 million for the Talisman system which will include Buffalo, Mastiff and High Mobility Engineer Excavators. In addition, the Department has already approved £109 million for Jackal, £270 million for Mastiff and £188 million for Ridgback.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 28-30WS, on protected mobility, what the source is of the £100 million his Department proposes to pay for the new armoured vehicles. [234321]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The MOD will contribute £128 million towards the protected mobility package through a limited re-prioritisation of its Equipment Programme funding.

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Wolfhound, *(b)* Coyote and *(c)* Husky armoured vehicles will be included in the package announced on 29 October. [234395]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The strategy for the procurement of the vehicles is still to be finalised. We expect to purchase around 95 Wolfhound, 260 Husky and 80 Coyote Vehicles.

Army: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the average tour interval for each battalion of the infantry was in the most recent period for which information is available. [234220]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Historical data to support the calculation of average tour intervals for each infantry battalion is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. The current tour intervals for individual infantry battalions are shown, giving an average tour interval of 22 months for the infantry as a whole.

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
Infantry					
1st Battalion Grenadier Guards	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	September 2006	8

Unit deployed	*Last operational deployment (as a unit)*	*Start date*	*Previous operational deployment (as a unit)*	*End date*	*Last unit tour interval (months)*
1st Battalion Coldstream Guards	Afghanistan	October 2007	Iraq	October 2005	23
1st Battalion Scots Guards	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	April 2005	31
1st Battalion Irish Guards	Iraq	June 2007	Northern Ireland	March 2004	38
1st Battalion Welsh Guards	Balkans	October 2006	Iraq	April 2005	17
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland[1]	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	May 2006	17
2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	29
3rd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Iraq	July 2004	Iraq	June 2003	12
4th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
5th Battalion The Royal Regiment of Scotland	Afghanistan	April 2008	Balkans	October 2005	29
1st Battalion The Princess Of Wales' Royal Regiment	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	October 2004	18
2nd Battalion The Princess Of Wales' Royal Regiment	Iraq	January 2005	Northern Ireland	December 2003	12
1st Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	May 2006	25
2nd Battalion The Royal Regiment of Fusiliers	Northern Ireland	April 2003	Northern Ireland	June 2002	9
1st Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	Afghanistan	May 2007	Iraq	October 2005	18
2nd Battalion The Royal Anglian Regiment	Iraq	June 2008	Iraq	October 2006	20
1st Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment[2]	Iraq	December 2007	n/a	—	
2nd Battalion The Duke of Lancaster's Regiment[2]	Iraq	November 2006	n/a	—	
1st Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	Iraq	November 2006	Balkans	September 2004	25
2nd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	September 2006	13
3rd Battalion The Yorkshire Regiment	Iraq	November 2004	Balkans	June 2001	40
1st Battalion The Royal Welsh	Cyprus (Theatre Reserve Battalion)	May 2007	Northern Ireland	January 2006	15
2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh	Iraq	June 2007	Iraq	October 2005	19
1st Battalion The Mercian Regiment	Iraq	December 2007	Iraq	October 2004	37
2nd Battalion The Mercian Regiment	Afghanistan	May 2007	Afghanistan	April 2005	24
3rd Battalion The Mercian Regiment	Iraq	November 2006	Iraq	October 2005	12
1st Battalion The Rifles[3]	Iraq	November 2006	Afghanistan	October 2008	24
2nd Battalion The Rifles	Iraq	November 2006	Northern Ireland	September 2004	25
3rd Battalion The Rifles	Iraq	September 2006	Northern Ireland	March 2005	17
4th Battalion The Rifles	Iraq	June 2007	Balkans	October 2001	67
5th Battalion The Rifles	Iraq	May 2006	Iraq	April 2004	24
1st Battalion The Royal Irish Regiment	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	December 2005	29
2nd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	Afghanistan	April 2008	Iraq	April 2006	24
3rd Battalion The Parachute Regiment	Afghanistan	April 2008	Afghanistan	October 2006	18
1st Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment	Afghanistan	October 2007	Balkans	March 2006	18
2nd Battalion The Royal Gurkha Regiment	Afghanistan	October 2008	Afghanistan	October 2005	37

[1] 1 RS and 1 KOSB amalgamated to form 1 SCOTS in August 2006. 1 SCOTS deployed for the first time as a formed unit to Iraq in December 2007.

[2] 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR amalgamated in July 2006 to form 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS. Because of the nature of this amalgamation it is not representative to carry forward the unit deployments of 1 KORBR, 1 KINGS and QLR to 1 LANCS and 2 LANCS.

[3] 1 RGBW and 1 DDLI amalgamated in March 2007 to form 1 RIFLES. 1 RIFLES has deployed for the first time as a formed unit in October 2008 on Herrick 9.

Army: Finance

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the estimated capitation cost for a *(a)* regular infantry battalion and *(b)* regular infantry brigade was in the latest period for which information is available. [234052]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The estimated annual capitation costs for an infantry battalion ranges between £19 million and £22 million depending on the battalion's role. This has been calculated using the capitation rates for financial year 2008-09; and covers the pay, national insurance and pension contribution costs incurred by the Department.

Brigades are either Light (including Air Assault and Commando), Mechanised or Armoured. All brigades deploy with infantry, but also include a range of other capabilities, which will vary according to requirements of specific operations. Capitation costs for a regular infantry brigade are therefore not readily available.

Colombia: Armed Forces

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether any of the personnel of the 15th Santander Infantry Battalion of the Colombian Army have received British training; and if he will make a statement. [234301]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: As I have made clear in previous answers, the Ministry of Defence does not provide training to whole units such as the 15th Santander Infantry Battalion of the Colombian Army. It is possible, however, that individuals trained by the UK in human rights and humanitarian demining have gone on to serve in any part of the Colombian armed forces, including in this battalion.

Defence: Procurement

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his latest estimate is of expenditure for urgent operational requirements in 2008-09; [234017]

(2) with reference to the answer of 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 679W, on departmental finance, by what means the figure of *(a)* £900 million for urgent operational requirements for 2008-09 referred to in the Answer and *(b)* £1,065 million referred to in paragraph 7 of the Government's response to the Defence Committee's Report on the Ministry of Defence Main Estimates 2008-09 was calculated; what the reasons are for the difference in the figures; and if he will make a statement. [234191]

Mr. Quentin Davies: The £900 million figure referred to for urgent operational requirements (UORs) was agreed with HM Treasury in autumn 2007 as the estimate for Reserve expenditure on UORs in FY 2008-09. This estimate was based on a forecast of UOR rates along with the known UOR pipeline of requirements.

We agreed at the time that any predicted spend from FY 2007-08 that did not accrue in year should be allowed in FY 2008-09 in addition to the £900 million without penalty.

Later, in the Main Estimate, we predicted our overall cash requirement, having taken into account some predicted rollover, as £1,065 million.

The latest estimate for UOR expenditure for FY 2008-09 is around £1 billion. This falls comfortably within the prediction.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in the 2007-08 financial year. [232909]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence and armed forces collectively maintain four corporate websites. Statistics for the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008 are as follows:

		FY 2007-08	
Website	*URL*	*Page hits (views)*	*Unique visitors*
MOD corporate website	www.mod.uk	25,879,649	4,336,104
Royal Navy	www.royalnavy.mod.uk	98,856,443	4,369,726
British Army	www.army.mod.uk	71,020,217	8,472,991
Royal Air Force	www.raf.mod.uk	56,667,751	6,286,810

Page hits (views) are provided, rather than hits, as they are a more accurate metric.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [221943]

Mr. Hutton: As with all goods and services procured by the MOD, when buying in external public relations and marketing services, robust principles are applied which include securing best value for money; ensuring probity and accountability; enabling competition wherever possible; and ensuring compliance with the relevant provisions of UK and EU law.

Specifically in relation to external public relations and marketing services, the MOD has made payments to the following company in the Public Relations Framework as follows:

	Bos Lancaster
	£
2005-06	1,730,000
2006-07	980,000
2007-08	200,000

These figures exclude VAT, and are rounded to the nearest £10,000. They reflect transactions made by the MOD's central Financial Management Shared Service Centre, which handles about 95 per cent. of all MOD payments. Payments not included are those which may have been made (a) on behalf of other Government Departments, (b) by the MOD's trading funds (which lie outside the MOD's accounting boundary), (c) locally by the Department, or (d) in relation to collaborative projects where the payments are made through international procurement agencies or overseas Governments.

EU Battlegroups: Military Exercises

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many members of 4 Rifles have completed the EU Battlegroup certification process; and *(a)* on what date and *(b)* at what location the certification exercise took place; [234754]

(2) how many members of 4 Rifles participated in the Druid's Dance exercise between 28 April and 18 May 2008. [234755]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: 607 members of 4 Battalion The Rifles (4 Rifles) have recently completed the EU Battlegroup certification process. The process comprises a Unit/Battlegroup combined arms formation exercise (Druid's Dance) which was completed between 1 September and 21 September on Salisbury Plain Training Area and a Unit/Battlegroup validation exercise (FIRST FLIGHT) which was conducted between 30 September and 1 October at the Joint Air Mounting Centre, South Cerney.

No members of 4 Rifles participated in exercise Druid's Dance between 28 April and 18 May 2008.

Galileo

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on a military application for the Galileo global satellite navigational system. [230243]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The UK has no military requirement for Galileo, which is a civil system under civil control.

Minesweepers

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which vehicles make up the Talisman project currently subject to an urgent operational requirement; and what the in-service date of the project is. [232770]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Talisman is a project which will deliver a system of vehicles, sensors and techniques to counter improvised explosive devices. In doing this, the system will better enable safe movement along routes in Afghanistan.

Initially the system will include three vehicle types: Mastiff, Buffalo and High Mobility Engineer Excavator.

Talisman is scheduled for initial fielding during late 2009, although its development will continue beyond that point.

Royal Military Academy

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capacity for *(a)* regular and *(b)* Territorial Army commissions at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst was in each year since 2001; and how many places were unfilled in each year. [234317]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Financial year	*Statement of trained requirement*	*Output from training*
2001-02		
Regular	770	714
TA	450	257
2002-03		
Regular	780	729
TA	440	264
2003-04		
Regular	760	713
TA	440	287
2004-05		
Regular	740	746
TA	390	195
2005-06		
Regular	824	752
TA	490	119
2006-07		
Regular	841	767
TA	360	172
2007-08		
Regular	832	762
TA	450	217

The Royal Military Academy Sandhurst (RMAS) is resourced to train the number of officers needed to meet the Army's manpower liability each year—this figure is known as the statement of training requirement (SOTR) and is set by the Director of Manning (Army). The total bed space capacity at RMAS for regular and TA officer cadets is 1,100.

Warrior Armoured Vehicle

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many injuries to service personnel have resulted from the Warrior chain gun firing undemanded since 2000. [234079]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: There have been four confirmed cases of the Warrior chain gun firing un-demanded since 2000. One of these cases resulted in an injury to a serviceman.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has made of the adequacy of levels of Government spending on research into agriculture and the food chain. [233669]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has recently commissioned a study "Survey of external capabilities to meet DEFRA's strategic aims" which is considering capability needs now and into the future, across the breadth of the Department's research requirements. Earlier this year, a one-day Agriculture Research Funding Conference and an Evidence Strategy Workshop run for DEFRA's Chief Scientific Adviser brought together key stakeholders, agriculture, food and environmental research scientists and funders. The study report together with recommendations from these workshops will be used to influence future planning and strategic evidence management and the revision of DEFRA's Evidence and Innovation Strategy.

Agriculture: Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the sum received from farmers by the Environment Agency for *(a)* disposal of agricultural waste, *(b)* groundwater authorisation for disposal of sheep dip and pesticides and *(c)* integrated pollution prevention control for pig and poultry units above the specified thresholds in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the proportion of farm income paid in such fees in each year; and if he will make a statement. [232989]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency has registered more than 600,000 agricultural waste exemptions at an estimated 91,000 farms which are not subject to a fee.

Groundwater authorisations relate to agricultural activities such as the disposal of used sheep dip or pesticide washings. The number of authorisations is decreasing due to changes in farmers' practice. The Environment Agency received the following in each of the last three years in England:

	£
2006-07	775,387.21
2007-08	733,547.87
2008-09	709,735.73

Intensive livestock installations over the relevant size thresholds were required to apply for permits for the first time in the period December 2006 to February 2007. The majority of these applications were made in 2006-07, but the Environment Agency estimates that 25 per cent. of the applications were late and the application charges paid in 2007-08. Subsistence charges become due when permits have been issued and are charged pro rata for the period of the first financial year after issue.

Estimated charges for the last three years in England and Wales are as follows:

			£
	Application fees	*Subsistence fees*	*Total*
2006-07	2,500	48,650.80	2,548,650.80
2007-08	830,000	1,968,490.51	2,798,490.51
2008-09[1]	0	2,411,609.15	2,411,609.15

[1] Figures for 2008-09 are to date

Air Pollution

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what evaluation he has made of the effectiveness of local schemes for improving air quality. [231093]

Jane Kennedy: Under Part IV of the Environment Act 1995, local authorities are required to work towards the air quality objectives contained in the Air Quality Regulations 2000. DEFRA receives action plans and progress reports as part of the consultation process required of local authorities, and the effectiveness of local measures is evaluated as part of this process according to the specific circumstances of each local authority. Local authorities will also be required to report on emissions of particulate matter and oxides of nitrogen from their estates and operations by 31 July 2009, under national indicator 194.

DEFRA also undertakes its own air quality monitoring across a number of national networks. Information on these, as well as information on local authorities with air quality management areas and an annual report on DEFRA's air quality monitoring activities, is available in the Air Quality Archive at:

www.airquality.co.uk.

Bees: Disease Control

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of alternative treatments for the varroa mite in Scotland. [234159]

Jane Kennedy: Scotland's disease control functions are a matter for the Scottish Parliament.

Biofuels

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of crops has been used for biofuel production in the last three years. [231672]

Jim Fitzpatrick: I have been asked to reply.

The Government do not hold data on the percentage of crops used for biofuel production. Professor Gallagher, Chair of the Renewable Fuels Agency (RFA), was asked to carry out a review of the wider effects of biofuel production earlier this year. This review refers to a 2008 study by CE Delft which estimated that around 1 per cent. of the total 1,500 million hectares currently estimated to be in use for cropland globally is being used for biofuel production[1].

Under the Renewable Transport Fuel Obligation the RFA collects information from biofuel suppliers about feedstocks and land use for biofuels supplied in the UK. It is expected that these data can contribute towards future estimates of crop use for biofuels.

[1] Source:

The Gallagher Review of the indirect effects of biofuels production: Page 30.

Bluetongue Disease: Vaccination

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to source vaccines to combat BTV6. [233870]

Jane Kennedy: There is no vaccine currently licensed for use against Bluetongue virus serotype 6 (BTV-6) in Europe. DEFRA is in discussion with potential vaccine providers, the veterinary profession and industry stakeholders about plans for 2009.

Meanwhile DEFRA is pressing for strict control measures to contain the threat of BTV-6 and other BTV serotypes in the EU, and will continue to conduct post-import tests on all imported animals for all Bluetongue serotypes.

We also have an agreed policy for controlling incursions of any new serotypes under the existing Bluetongue Control Strategy, published last year, and which is being updated in the light of this year's experience.

Vaccination

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many doses of the BTV8 vaccine the Government has bought since October 2007. [233350]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA has placed orders for 35.5 million doses of BTV8 vaccine; 28 million for use in England and 7.5 million for Wales. The first order for 22.5 million doses was placed on 1 November 2007 with a further 13 million doses ordered on 11 June 2008. In keeping with the principles set out in the Bluetongue vaccination plan, livestock keepers in the protection zone can purchase vaccine through their private vets. BTV8 vaccine has been available since May 2008.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the take-up rate of the BTV8 vaccine has been in the last 12 months. [233351]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against Bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary, and delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals earlier this year. Because the approach to vaccination is voluntary, no definitive figures can be provided on the numbers of livestock actually vaccinated.

However, to date, sales data from the supply chain suggest the overall uptake of vaccine across the whole of England is around 60 per cent. Initial vaccine uptake was high—reaching between 80 per cent. and 90 per cent. in the South East and East of England, but uptake in the counties of northern England and in Wales has been lower.

Alistair Burt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether he plans to sell unused BTV8 vaccines held by his Department before their expiration date. [233352]

Jane Kennedy: Vaccination against Bluetongue in England and Wales is voluntary, and delivered through existing veterinary medicine supply chains, an approach agreed earlier this year with the livestock industry to ensure the simple, rapid roll-out of vaccine to protect animals. Supplies of vaccine are still available to farmers who have not yet vaccinated this year; they are advised to contact their private vet to place orders.

The 2009 vaccination strategy for Bluetongue serotype eight is currently being discussed with stakeholders. This includes consideration of the role the existing surplus can play in meeting future demand before the vaccine expires. Further details will be announced following these discussions with the expectation that the vaccination plan will be published by December of this year. This will be made available on the DEFRA website.

Bovine Tuberculosis: Disease Control

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how may cases there have been of stockholders refusing to have animals slaughtered when they have been diagnosed with bovine tuberculosis in the last 12 months. [233871]

Jane Kennedy: Some stockholders do, at least initially, resist Government efforts to remove and slaughter cattle that have reacted positively to a diagnostic test for bovine TB. However, after discussing their options with officials from Animal Health, almost all such stockholders agree to the removal of their test positive cattle.

Our records indicate that, in the last 12 months, 66 stockholders refused to allow their test positive animals to be removed. In 55 of these cases the TB positive animals have now been removed with the owners' agreement—leaving 11 cases yet to be resolved.

Coastal Areas: Flood Control

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what cost benefit analysis his Department has commissioned on the building and maintenance of coastal defences for Norfolk; and if he will make a statement. [233421]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA is funding the development of revised Shoreline Management Plans (SMPs) covering the English coastline. There are three SMPs for the Norfolk coast, which are currently being prepared by the Environment Agency and local authorities. These plans will present the suggested long term management policies for the coast. They include a broad assessment of the economic viability of these policies.

In the event that the Environment Agency or local authority request national funding for strategies and works to implement coastal policies, a detailed cost benefit analysis must be undertaken that demonstrates best value for money.

Domestic Wastes

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what role the Waste and Resources Action Programme has in relation to proposed charges for the collection of household waste, with particular reference to waste authorities. [232586]

Jane Kennedy: As part of its general support to local authorities, the Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) will offer advice to those authorities that seek it, about the available options for incentive schemes.

Environment Protection: Coastal Areas

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate he made of the number of *(a)* homes and *(b)* business premises at risk from coastal erosion in each region; [227847]

(2) what estimate he made of the area of farmland at risk from coastal erosion in each region. [227848]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency is mapping those areas at risk from coastal erosion around the country. Their findings will not differentiate between farmland and other types of land or between residential and commercial properties in locations vulnerable to coastal erosion.

Fly Tipping

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many incidents of fly tipping in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire were reported in each of the last five years; and how many people were prosecuted in each year for such offences. [233847]

Jane Kennedy: The number of fly-tipping incidents and enforcement actions taken are recorded at local authority level. DEFRA does not hold specific figures for the town of Hemel Hempstead.

The total figures recorded by the 10 district and borough councils within Hertfordshire for the four years for which data are available are as follows:

	Incidents	*Prosecutions*
2004-05	15,463	36
2005-06	13,344	18
2006-07	12,422	14
2007-08	15,478	17

Prosecution is one of a range of enforcement actions which may be taken by a local authority, including warning letters, serving of statutory notices, fixed penalty notices and formal cautions.

Genetically Modified Organisms: International Co-operation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the objectives of the Government were at the meetings of 17 July and 10 October 2008 with EU representatives on genetically-modified crops; and if he will make a statement. [233591]

Jane Kennedy: These meetings were convened on behalf of Commissioner Barroso to facilitate discussion on the operation of the EU assessment and decision-making process for GM crops and foods. We have expressed our view that the EU regime is robust enough to ensure that human health and the environment will not be compromised, but that there is need to avoid unnecessary and unjustified delays in reaching decisions on proposed GM products. In particular, we have highlighted our concern that the slow operation of the EU regime could lead to serious problems with the import of animal protein feed, on which UK and EU livestock farmers are dependent.

Glass: Recycling

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps he is taking to increase the amount of glass recycled by restaurants and bars; and if he will make a statement. [233196]

Jane Kennedy: The Government funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) is working on this issue. WRAP has started a project to measure the volume of glass going into the hospitality sector and the volume being recovered. This project will also identify examples of best practice that can be used to promote glass recycling in the sector. Data on glass being recovered have been estimated from a number of sources, but the early results suggest that less than 20 per cent. of the glass entering the sector is recovered for any form of recycling. The next phase of this project will be to develop a voluntary agreement which asks the sector to commit to glass recycling. This will include discussions with glass processors to ensure that the increased glass tonnage can be diverted back into bottle recycling.

Incinerators

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effects on human health of modern experimental hazardous waste incinerators; and if he will make a statement. [232283]

Jane Kennedy: No specific research on the effects on human health of modern experimental hazardous waste incinerators has been carried out. The operation of any such incinerators is controlled through a robust regulatory regime specifically put in place to protect human health and the wider environment.

Landfill

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress he has made to meeting the target to complete the process of closing all landfills by 2009 that will not meet the Landfill Directive requirements. [231011]

Jane Kennedy: Implementation of the landfill directive has so far resulted in a reduction in the number of permitted landfill sites in England and Wales from around 2,600 to 560 sites that continue to operate.

Of those estimated—560 sites, 450 have been granted a landfill permit and thus meet the requirements of the landfill directive. The remaining 110 sites are either:

closing by July 2009 in accordance with a plan agreed with the Environment Agency (10);

subject to outstanding appeals against the refusal of a landfill permit application (25); or

still being considered following further investigation as to their fulfilment of the landfill directive requirements (75).

Landfill Tax

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been raised by the landfill tax in each of the last five years; and how much has been spent on waste reduction or recycling programmes. [233422]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

Annual UK landfill tax receipts for 2002-03 to 2007/08 are published by HM Revenue and Customs at:

http://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulllandfill

Total public sector expenditure on waste management is available in Table 5.2 at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/6(4).pdf

Maps: Environment Agency

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what criteria the Environment Agency uses to prioritise areas for preparing flooding maps with light detection and ranging technology. [231310]

Jane Kennedy: By March 2011 the Environment Agency will have increased its coverage of digital terrain data. This will provide an accurate, cost-effective model of terrain suitable for assessing flood risk in areas having between a 1 per cent. and 0.1 per cent. annual probability of fluvial flooding, or between a 0.5 per cent. and 0.1 per cent. annual probability of tidal flooding in any year.

The Environment Agency has developed a three-year programme to obtain this level of coverage starting with the areas identified by Catchment Flood Management Plans, Shoreline Management Plans and National Flood Risk Assessment as at highest risk.

Office of Water Services: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the budget is for Ofwat's regulatory activities in each of the next three financial years. [232696]

Jane Kennedy: Ofwat's estimated budget for the next three financial years is set out in the following table.

	Budget (£ million)
2009-10	18.7
2010-11	18.6
2011-12	19.1

Ofwat has recently published for consultation its draft forward programme of work for 2009-10 to 2011-12. This includes details of its planned areas of work for the next three years and budget estimates for the same period. The consultation can be accessed via Ofwat's website:

www.ofwat.gov.uk

Oil: Waste Management

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 178W, on oils: waste management, what provision there is for clean fuel oil in the waste oils directive; and if he will make a statement. [232684]

Jane Kennedy: The waste oils directive includes a range of provisions which relate to the management of waste oils, including part-processed waste oils which remain a waste. One of the core objectives of the directive is that member states should give priority to the regeneration of waste oil (that is the recycling of waste oil back to lubricant) ahead of the combustion of waste oil for energy recovery. There is no specific mention in the directive of any trade-marked substances such as "Clean Fuel Oil".

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 178W, on oil: waste management, what measures are in place to ensure the collection and correct management of waste oil. [232286]

Jane Kennedy: A combination of waste controls require all wastes, including hazardous wastes such as waste oil, to be collected and treated in an environmentally sound manner. The Hazardous Waste Regulations 2005 provide for the safe tracking and movement of hazardous waste. The Environmental Permitting Regulations 2007 require sites that recover or dispose of waste to have in place an appropriate permit or exemption from permitting. Section 33 of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 makes it an offence to deposit waste, including hazardous waste, in or on any land unless under the terms of an environmental permit or an exemption from permitting.

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his Department's definition is of *(a)* waste oil and *(b)* product equivalent fuel; and if he will make a statement. [232289]

Jane Kennedy: Directive 75/439/EEC (as amended) defines "waste oils" as meaning,

> "any mineral-based lubrication or industrial oils which have become unfit for the use for which they were originally intended, and in particular used combustion engine oils and gearbox oils, and also mineral lubricating oils, oils for turbines and hydraulic oils".

DEFRA has implemented this definition by means of regulation 2(1) of the Environmental Permitting (England and Wales) Regulations 2007. DEFRA does not define "product equivalent fuel".

Dr. Richard Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what measures are in place to encourage the complete recovery of waste oil to produce product equivalent fuel. [232291]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency are developing an end-of-waste protocol for the production of processed fuel oil from waste lubricating oils, and have recently consulted on the possible terms of this protocol. The Agency's draft makes it clear that, where the proposed criteria are met, the resulting processed fuel oil will normally be regarded as having been fully recovered and to have ceased to be waste. It is anticipated that a post-consultation draft of the protocol will be submitted to the European Commission in January 2009 for notification as a technical regulation in accordance with the Technical Standards Directive (98/34/EC).

Packaging

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) which groups have been consulted as part of the Strategic Review of Packaging Policy; [230776]

(2) what the status is of the Strategic Review of Packaging Policy; and whether there is a date set for the implementation of the policy review. [230778]

Jane Kennedy: The Strategic Review of Packaging Policy was initiated as a response to the Prime Ministers Strategy Unit 'Food Matters' report published in July 2008.

Since July, DEFRA and the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform have been working together in collaboration with the Devolved Administrations to develop a strategy for packaging.

The strategy will aim to set out how packaging policy will play its part in the climate change and resource efficiency agenda over the next decade and beyond, and how it will address consumer concerns about packaging. The strategy will be a policy statement describing where packaging policy should contribute to the set out in the 2007 Waste Strategy for England and be gradually phased in over a number of years, starting in delivery ambitions implementation will early 2009.

Despite the short timescales, the Government have consulted a wide range of stakeholders during the formation of this strategy. These key stakeholders included the Advisory Committee on Packaging (ACP) which has representatives from compliance schemes, waste management companies, brands and manufacturers; the Packaging Recycling Action Group (PRAG), which has representatives from trade organisations, retailers, local government and manufacturers; the Waste Action Forum, Improvement and Efficiency South East, the Local Government Association, the Waste and Resources Action Programme, Friends of the Earth, the Sustainable Development Commission and the Green Alliance.

Additionally, DEFRA held a successful stakeholder event on 17 October. The event tested emerging thinking on the current direction of the packaging strategy and gathered a rang of stakeholder opinions. Around 50 organisations were represented at the event, including Material Organisations, Alupro, Corus, the British Plastics Federation, packaging designers and manufacturers including Deputy Speaker Smith Packaging and Sealed Air and packaging industry trade organisations including INCPEN and the Packaging Federation.

Recycling

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the capacity of England's recycling facilities, broken down by type of facility. [231669]

Jane Kennedy: The Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) ran a conference on 23 October entitled "Recovered Materials: Navigating the Global Economic Slowdown".

At the conference, WRAP reported that in 2007, 110 million tonnes of material, with an economic value of £3.7 billion, were collected for recycling in the UK. Of this material, 97 million tonnes was processed in the UK.

A breakdown of these figures by material is given in the following table.

		mt
Material stream	*Collected*	*Processed in UK*
Aggregates and soil	71.3	71.3
Metals/WEEE/ELV	13.0	5.0
Paper and card	8.5	4.0
Green waste	4.2	4.2
Food waste	2.0	2.0
Glass	1.8	1.5
Wood	1.8	1.8
Other	8.0	7.2
Total	110.6	97.0

Figures for England are not available separately.

It is important to note that data on recycling capacity is highly dependent on the point in the recycling chain (from collection, through sorting and reprocessing, to end-use) at which the measurement is made. For this reason, a single estimate of the UK's overall recycling capacity is not available.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps his Department is taking to improve recycling capacity. [231670]

Jane Kennedy: For the period 2008-09 to 2010-11, DEFRA is making £185 million of grant funding available to local authorities through the Waste Infrastructure Capital Grant (WICG) and £60 million through the London Waste and Recycling Fund. These un-ringfenced capital grants will be paid to upper tier and unitary authorities in recognition of the need to provide waste infrastructure, such as recycling and composting facilities, in time to help England meet landfill targets.

Recycling: Greater London

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much waste was recycled by each London borough in the latest period for which figures are available. [231722]

Jane Kennedy: The information requested is as follows:

Authority	*Household recycling and composting 2007-08 (Tonnes)*
Barking and Dagenham	17,814
Barnet	44,176
Bexley	44,629
Brent	22,839
Bromley	49,580
Camden	19,607
City of London	1,823
Croydon	30,746
Ealing	34,314
Enfield	33,965
Greenwich	31,472
Hackney	17,714
Hammersmith and Fulham	16,629
Haringey	21,091
Harrow	38,659
Havering	26,677
Hillingdon	40,604
Hounslow	21,972
Islington	19,745
Lambeth	24,311
Lewisham	25,377
Merton	21,681

Authority	*Household recycling and composting 2007-08 (Tonnes)*
Newham	16,975
Redbridge	23,005
Richmond upon Thames	28,230
Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea	17,365
Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames	16,767
Southwark	22,233
Sutton	26,488
Tower Hamlets	11,291
Waltham Forest	29,971
Wandsworth	26,564
Westminster City Council	18,826

Source:
WasteDataFlow, Best Value Performance Indicators

Shellfish: Colchester

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what progress has been made in obtaining protected geographical indication status for the Colchester oyster. [232491]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: Officials met with representatives of the applicant group in May 2007 to discuss the outstanding points relating to the product specification for the Colchester Native Oyster. Following that meeting, some further information relating to the geographical area and other aspects of the application was sought from the applicant group. Unfortunately, despite regular reminders from officials (most recently in early October 2008), that information has not been forthcoming. This means that it has not been possible to complete our assessment of the validity of the application for protected geographical indication status for the Colchester Native Oyster. We will continue to pursue this with the applicant group.

Thames Estuary: Environment Protection

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much has been spent in managing the Thames Estuary in each of the last five years. [231911]

Jane Kennedy: The Environment Agency's total expenditure for flood risk management for the Thames Estuary in each of the last five years is shown in the following table.

	Total
2004-05	17,052,000
2005-06	20,381,000
2006-07	17,831,000
2007-08	17,398,000
2008-09	17,593,600

Total expenditure includes capital and revenue figures. Capital expenditure includes schemes land capital replacement. Revenue expenditure includes operating, maintaining and inspecting structures including the Thames Barrier, Barking Barrier, Dartford Creek Barrier and associated floodgates and floodwalls.

The geographical area of expenditure is the Thames Estuary from Teddington to Kingsnorth Power Station on the south bank and Teddington to Wakering on the north bank.

In addition the Environment Agency has a £16 million strategy (Thames Estuary 2100 project) running from 2002 through to 2010 to develop a Thames tidal flood risk management plan up to 2100.

Waste and Resources Action Programme: Marketing

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much the Waste and Resources Action Programme has spent on external *(a)* public relations and *(b)* public affairs, in the last 24 months; and for what purpose. [232806]

Jane Kennedy: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State to the hon. Member for Beckenham (Mrs. Lait) on 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 745W.

Waste Disposal

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much and what percentage of total municipal waste was recycled in each of the last three years. [234682]

Jane Kennedy: The following table shows the amounts in tonnes and percentages of total municipal waste sent to be recycled or composted by English local authorities in the last three financial years

	Municipal waste sent for recycling/composting	
	Thousand tonnes	*Percentage*
2005-06	7,799	27
2006-07	8,937	31
2007-08	9,703	34

Source:
WasteDataFlow

Waste Disposal: Small Businesses

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Local Communities on measures to encourage local authorities to take on a wider role in partnerships to help small local businesses to reduce and recycle their waste. [231010]

Jane Kennedy: There have not been any meetings between the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on this topic.

The Communities and Local Government Department is represented at official level on the Government Waste Strategy Board which provides leadership for taking forward the delivery of the Waste Strategy for England 2007.

It is the role of the Business Resource Efficiency and Waste (BREW) Centre for local authorities, which is funded by DEFRA, to help local authorities work with their business communities to use resources more efficiently, including to reduce and recycle waste.

The BREW Centre is delivering a central support service to help local authorities provide more tailored advice to their business community on waste and resource efficiency issues. The centre connects together over 850 local authority officers by means of an "active learning" network to help share learning in this area, and has developed over 100 good practice case studies and other guidance for local authorities. Specific business resource efficiency projects are being taken forward with selected local authorities, and the lessons learned from these are being shared widely by the centre.

Waste Management

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate he has made of the volume and proportion of *(a)* municipal, *(b)* industrial and *(c)* total waste that was (i) sent to landfill, (ii) incinerated, (iii) domestically recycled or composted and (iv) exported in each of the last 10 years. [231666]

Jane Kennedy: The amount and proportion of municipal waste landfilled, incinerated and recycled/composted from 1996-97 to 2006-07 are shown in Table 1. It is not possible to separately identify municipal waste sent for recycling in this country from that exported for recovery.

Waste to landfill

Total waste to landfill in England from 2000-01 to 2006 is shown in table 2. Industrial waste to landfill is not separately recorded; it is included in the 'household, industrial and commercial' category. Around a quarter of total waste is sent to landfill.

Waste incinerated

Waste inputs received by permitted incinerators, broken down by incinerator type for 2006 and 2007 is shown in table 3. Data are collated according to the type of waste the incinerator is permitted to burn, not the source sector of the waste and therefore, industrial waste cannot be separately identified. The figures include all incineration processes that take waste from off-site sources. It does not include processes that burn their own waste. A small proportion of total waste (around 2 per cent.) is managed by permitted incinerators.

Waste recycled/composted

Estimates for total waste recycled or composted in England in 1998-99, 2002-03, 2004 and 2006 are shown in table 4. Around 19.0 million tonnes of industrial waste were recycled/composted in 1998-99, and 18.7 million tonnes in 2002-03. This breakdown is not available for 2004 or 2006.

Waste exported

Data on shipments of notifiable wastes are collected by Government agencies in the UK to comply with the Basel Convention. Therefore, comprehensive data on shipments of these wastes are currently available. However, these wastes represent a very small (1 per cent.) proportion of total waste movements, and the majority is non-notifiable, or 'green list' waste. While it is not a requirement for the 'green list' forms to be reported to the Environment Agency in England and Wales, movements of 'green list' waste can be estimated from HM Revenue and Customs trade database. However, these data are indicative, since in many cases the categories under which trade data are reported do not differentiate between exported wastes and products. Estimates of non-notifiable waste movements from trade data have only been made for 2006.

Total waste exported from the UK in 2006 is estimated to have been approximately 13 million tonnes. Of this, around 4.7 million tonnes was exported to within the EU, and 8.4 million tonnes outside the EU. 'Green list' waste accounts for 99 per cent. of waste exports. Estimates by source sector are not available.

Table 1: Management of municipal waste in England, 1996-97 to 2006-07

Thousand tonnes

	Landfill	*Incinerated*	*Recycled/ composted*	*Total*[1]
1996-97	20,630	2,207	1,750	24,588
1997-98	21,765	1,846	2,064	25,711
1998-99	21,507	2,296	2,530	26,342
1999-2000	22,199	2,395	3,117	27,715
2000-01	22,039	2,411	3,446	28,057
2001-02	22,421	2,447	3,921	28,905
2002-03	22,068	2,607	4,572	29,394
2003-04	20,936	2,604	5,537	29,114
2004-05	19,822	2,818	6,951	29,619
2005-06	17,873	2,859	7,799	28,726
2006-07	16,890	3,237	8,937	29,187

Proportion (Percentage)

	Landfill	*Incinerated*	*Recycled/ composted*
1996-97	84	9	7
1997-98	85	7	8
1998-99	82	9	10
1999-2000	80	9	11
2000-01	79	9	12
2001-02	78	8	14
2002-03	75	9	16
2003-04	72	9	19
2004-05	67	10	23
2005-06	62	10	27
2006-07	58	11	31

[1] Management methods other than landfill, incineration and recycling/composting have not been included, meaning that the totals will be slightly greater than the sum of the management routes.

Source:

Municipal waste management survey, 1996-97 to 2003-04; WasteDataFlow from 2004-05

Table 2: Landfill deposits in England, 2000-01 to 2006

Million tonnes

	2000-01	*2002-03*	*2004-05*	*2005*	*2006*
Inert/C&D	31.2	31.2	26.8	27.3	27.5
Household, industrial and commercial	45.9	42.6	39.7	39.1	36.5
Hazardous	2.8	2.0	2.4	1.5	0.9
Total	79.9	75.7	68.9	67.9	64.9

Source:

Returns made by landfill operators to the Environment Agency

Table 3: Incineration throughput in England, 2006 and 2007

Thousand tonnes

	2006	*2007*
Municipal	3,282	3,267
Sewage Sludge	196	191
Hazardous	134	133
Animal By-Product	803	799
Animal Carcass	23	19
Clinical	108	118

Table 3: Incineration throughput in England, 2006 and 2007

	Thousand tonnes	
	2006	*2007*
Co-Incineration of Hazardous Waste	211	273
Co-Incineration of Non Hazardous Waste	90	336
Total	4,848	5,136

Source:
Environment Agency.

Table 4: Waste recycled/composted in England, 1998-99 to 2006

	Waste recycled/ composted (Million tonnes)	*Proportion of estimated total waste (Percentage)*
1998-99	52.2	21
2002-03	80.9	30
2004	96.8	35
2006	112.1	42

Notes:
Recycling is defined as the reprocessing in a production process of the waste materials for the original purpose, or for other purposes including organic recycling, but excluding energy recovery. This includes composting and household recycling.
Sources:
1. Estimated from returns made by licensed waste operators to the Environment Agency survey of exempt sites in 2006.
2. National Packaging Waste Database estimates derived from the National Waste Production Survey 2002-03. Surveys of Alternatives to Primary Aggregates. Water UK.

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what guidance has been given to local authorities by his Department on the development of joint municipal waste management strategies; and if he will place in the Library copies of such guidance. [232582]

Jane Kennedy: Guidance on the duty for local authorities in two-tier areas to produce joint municipal waste management strategies is publicly available on DEFRA's website.

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has for the future of the zero waste place project. [233874]

Jane Kennedy: The monitoring period for the zero waste projects will run until May 2009, at which point DEFRA will publish a report detailing the experiences of the six zero waste places. This will serve to highlight best practice in sustainable waste management and help to support local authorities to reduce the environmental impact of waste. We will consider further action in the light of this evaluation.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact of the economic downturn on the domestic and international markets for waste; and if he will make a statement. [231668]

Jane Kennedy: On 23 October, the DEFRA funded Waste and Resources Action Programme (WRAP) hosted a special forum on international markets for recovered paper and plastics entitled "Recovered Materials: Navigating the Global Economic Slowdown".

The papers discussed at this event are available on WRAP's website.

The conclusion drawn was that while domestic demand for waste recyclates might be flat, there will still be a demand for waste material for recycling in overseas markets. However, prices are expected to be volatile in the short term, though they are likely to stabilise over time.

Water

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many litres of water per day were used on average by domestic water users in each year from 1995 to 2006. [234491]

Jane Kennedy: Per capita consumption figures for England and Wales are reported annually in Ofwat's Security of Supply reports. Average domestic water use per person for 1995 to 2006 was recorded by Ofwat as follows:

	Litres/head/day
1995-96	152
1996-97	148
1997-98	149
1998-99	146
1999-2000	149
2000-01	149
2001-02	150
2002-03	150
2003-04	154
2004-05	150
2005-06	151
2006-07	148

Water Supply

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the impact on rural areas of the implementation of the Private Water Suppliers (England) Regulations 2008 to *(a)* households and *(b)* businesses; and if he will make a statement. [234046]

Jane Kennedy: Private water suppliers are predominantly located in rural areas and the impact on both households and businesses is set out in the impact assessment which was published in August as part of the consultation on the new regulations. No new monitoring requirements are proposed to the majority of private water supplies (approximately 60 per cent.) that are for domestic use within single private premises.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how he plans to ensure that the implementation of the Private Water Suppliers (England) Regulations 2008 and his proposed amendment to them apply uniformly to rural and urban areas. [234047]

Jane Kennedy: The proposed regulations will apply uniformly to rural and urban areas across England, however private supplies are predominantly located in rural areas. An impact assessment was published in August as part of the consultation on the new regulations.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what responses he has received to his recent consultation on the Private Water Supplies (England) Regulations 2008. [234048]

Jane Kennedy: To date 100, representations to the consultation have been received. DEFRA will consider the responses and publish the Government response by spring 2009.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what percentage of employees in the Government Equalities Office are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233823]

Maria Eagle: All employees in the Government Equalities Office (GEO) have the opportunity to work flexibly. Some 3.3 per cent. of GEO employees are on a job share employment contract and we offer all employees the opportunity to work from home on a regular basis subject to line management approval.

Civil Servants: Fast Stream

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many civil servants in the Government Equalities Office were recruited through the fast stream; and what the average salary of those officials is. [229190]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007 and currently has six members of staff who were recruited to the GEO through the fast stream. The average monthly salaries are shown as follows:

	Average monthly salary (£)
Officer 1	2,453
Officer 2	2,626
Officer 3	2,801
Officer 4	3,278
Officer 5	3,309
Officer 6	3,397

Media Monitoring

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* the Government Equalities Office and *(b)* its associated non-departmental public bodies since its creation; and what the cost of each contract was. [230038]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office employs EDS Media at a cost of approximately £1,500 per month although this can vary according to the number of relevant media articles. EDS Media have also provided the Equality and Human Rights Commission with monitoring services since its establishment in October 2007. To date, the Commission have spent a combined total of £97,491.21 on the monitoring services. The Women's National Commission (WNC) does not pay for any media monitoring services.

Departmental Training

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how much the Government Equalities Office spent on external training courses for departmental staff in each year since its inception; and which external organisations were paid by the Department to provide such courses in each year. [230492]

Maria Eagle: Since its establishment on 12 October 2007 the Government Equalities Office have used the following external organisations and made the following payments for the provision of staff training

External training organisation	*Course title*	*Total cost (£)*
2007-08		
Alpha Training	Drafting Ministerial Correspondence	2,088
	Appearing Before Select Committee	
	Effective Time Management	
National School of Government	Assertiveness At Work	19,450.00
	Employment Law	
	Appearing Before Select Committee	
	EU Workshop	
	Prince2 Conversion Practitioners Exams	
	Bill Team Seminar	
	Leaders Unlimited Development Programme	
Department for Work and Pensions	Leadership Development Programme	576
Total cost		22,114
2008-09		
Centre for Parliamentary Studies	Writing a Strategy	564
CIPD Enterprises	Employment Law Workshop	576
Dods Parliamentary Comms	A-Z of Policy	564
Govnet Communications	Strategic Thinking	495
Hemsley Fraser Learning and Development	The Newly Appointed Manager	892
Learning Laboratory Ltd.	Executive Course	1,410
National School of Government	Stakeholder Engagement	910
Total cost to date		5,410
Total cost of GEO training		27,524

Equality and Human Rights Commission

Lynne Jones: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2304W, on equality, under what circumstances Commissioners of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) are not representatives of the EHRC when making public statements. [226575]

Maria Eagle: Commissioners speak on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission when making public statements only when they have been asked or it has been agreed by the Commission to do so.

Other than those circumstances they make public statements in their private capacity and not as Commissioners speaking on behalf of the Commission.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what work YouGov has undertaken on behalf of the Equality and Human Rights Commission; and how much this has cost. [233545]

Maria Eagle: The Equality and Human Rights Commission has not commissioned any work with YouGov to date.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality what average salary was paid by the Equality and Human Rights Commission to its *(a)* male, *(b)* female, *(c)* white, *(d)* black and minority ethnic *(e)* disabled and *(f)* non-disabled employees in the last period for which figures are available. [232794]

Maria Eagle: The current average salaries for staff in each group are as follows:

Group		*Average salary (£)*
a	Male	33,366.96
b	Female	28,920.48
c	White	30,803.91
d	Black and Ethnic Minority	29,035.12
e	Disabled	29,784.07
f	Non-Disabled	30,598.81

These figures do not reflect full-time equivalent salaries but are purely the average of total salaries paid to staff. They therefore have not been updated to reflect, for example, part-time working. The Commission does not currently have figures based on hourly rates. These will become available once the Commission has finished harmonisation of its legacy organisations pay arrangements onto common rates of pay. These new rates have now been agreed with trade unions and staff have been consulted. It is expected that these new arrangements will be implemented shortly. Figures based on hourly rates will be available in the new financial year.

Females: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality how many complaints have been made to police forces about violence against women in the last five years, broken down by *(a)* parliamentary constituency and *(b)* police force. [227214]

Maria Eagle: Violence against women includes crimes such as rape, domestic violence, forced marriage, sexual exploitation and trafficking, and I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer for question 2272115 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 556W. The following table provides a breakdown by police force area for recorded offences of rape of a female for the last five years.

Recorded offences of rape of a female: 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of offences				
Police force area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Avon and Somerset	447	427	295	393	352
Bedfordshire	139	149	188	141	106
British Transport Police	25	39	17	16	14
Cambridgeshire	216	219	193	193	198
Cheshire	172	184	165	150	140
Cleveland	139	135	158	125	130
Cumbria	71	73	73	63	78
Derbyshire	221	257	253	253	217
Devon and Cornwall	303	348	361	355	360
Dorset	137	149	166	115	192
Durham	68	83	129	76	117
Dyfed-Powys	99	94	79	92	66
Essex	316	320	352	324	264
Gloucestershire	97	105	145	150	130
Greater Manchester	790	812	769	767	712
Gwent	77	103	112	132	164
Hampshire	439	573	618	592	549
Hertfordshire	149	179	197	179	163
Humberside	330	286	323	264	237
Kent	268	329	413	368	379
Lancashire	241	249	299	257	232
Leicestershire	238	291	287	275	315
Lincolnshire	156	164	169	147	154
London, City of	3	7	5	8	3
Merseyside	360	342	356	274	231
Metropolitan Police	2,417	2,282	2,249	2,144	1,792

Recorded offences of rape of a female: 2003-04 to 2007-08

	Number of offences				
Police force area	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Norfolk	196	170	209	147	128
Northamptonshire	144	116	152	147	138
Northumbria	305	306	325	307	232
North Wales	132	148	156	99	142
North Yorkshire	115	132	134	128	121
Nottinghamshire	273	230	236	223	209
South Wales	177	165	193	240	232
South Yorkshire	170	261	294	241	219
Staffordshire	226	275	267	265	224
Suffolk	166	169	192	161	151
Surrey	138	120	135	134	144
Sussex	276	414	399	413	293
Thames Valley	409	377	425	411	356
Warwickshire	73	83	75	93	96
West Mercia	210	199	212	208	229
West Midlands	747	882	856	834	748
West Yorkshire	572	526	558	579	563
Wiltshire	131	97	138	141	128
England and Wales	12,378	12,869	13,327	12,624	11,648

JUSTICE

Appeals: Incapacity Benefit

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the success rate at appeal hearings has been for incapacity for work applicants *(a)* overall and *(b)* where both the claimant and the representative attended the hearing in the last five years for which figures are available. [234433]

Bridget Prentice: The overall success rate at incapacity benefit appeal hearings was:

45.09 per cent. from April 2007 to March 2008;

43.44 per cent. from April 2008 to October 2008.

Where the appellant had representation, the success rate was:

58.37 per cent. from April 2007 to March 2008;

57.58 per cent. from April 2008 to October 2008.

Prior to April 2007, this information was not recorded.

The tribunal does not record appeals where both claimant and representative attend.

Appeals: Disability Living Allowance

Dr. Evan Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the success rate was at appeal hearings for disability living allowance applicants *(a)* overall and *(b)* where both the claimant and the representative attended the hearing in the last five years for which figures are available. [234434]

Bridget Prentice: The overall success rate at disability living allowance appeal hearings was:

36.05 per cent. from April 2007 to March 2008;

33.87 per cent. from April 2008 to October 2008.

Where the appellant had representation the success rate was:

43.22 per cent. from April 2007 to March 2008;

41.65 per cent. from April 2008 to October 2008.

Prior to April 2007, this information was not recorded.

The tribunal does not record appeals where both claimant and representative attend.

Asylum: Appeals

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what percentage of asylum decisions were overturned on appeal in each year since 1997. [233322]

Bridget Prentice: The information requested can be viewed in the following table.

		Allowed		Dismissed		Withdrawn	
	Total determined	*Total*	*As percentage of total determined*	*Total*	*As percentage of total determined*	*Total*	*As percentage of total withdrawn*
1997	21,090	1,180	6	18,145	86	1,720	8
1998	25,320	2,355	9	21,195	84	1,770	7
1999	19,460	5,280	27	11,135	57	3,050	16
2000	19,395	3,340	17	15,580	80	475	2
2001	43,415	8,155	19	34,440	79	825	2
2002	64,405	13,875	22	48,845	76	1,685	3
2003	81,725	16,070	20	63,810	78	1,845	2
2004	55,975	10,845	19	43,760	78	1,370	2
2005	33,440	5,605	17	26,555	79	1,285	4

		Allowed		Dismissed		Withdrawn	
	Total determined	Total	As percentage of total determined	Total	As percentage of total determined	Total	As percentage of total withdrawn
2006	15,955	3,540	22	11,595	73	820	5
2007	14,935	3,385	23	10,735	72	820	5

Details are published in the Home Office publications 'Control of Immigration Statistics United Kingdom', copies of which are available in the Library of both Houses. Details can also be found on the Asylum Statistics UK website at these links:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs07/hosb1407.pdf

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs08/hosb1108.pdf.

Courts Service

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many posts in HM Courts Service there are; and what projection he has made of the number of jobs in the service in 2011. [233752]

Bridget Prentice: As at September 2008 there were 19,474 permanent full-time equivalent on strength members of staff employed by Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS).

It has been clear since the publication of MoJ's CSR07 settlement that the Department and its constituent bodies, including HMCS, would have to cut budgets. The efficiency savings plan for Moj for 2008-09 is currently under way.

We are working up over the next few months the performance and efficiency plan for MoJ and its constituent bodies, including HMCS, to cover 2009-10 and 2010-11.

We expect there to be a reduction in headcount in HMCS parts of MoJ but we expect a large part of that to come from reductions in agency staff and contractors. Exact numbers will only be available once we have completed our planning exercise.

We will aim to match courts' work better to the changing pattern of demand and do not have any current plans to close courts.

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many courts HM Courts Service administers at present; and what projection he has made of the number of courts in operation in 2011. [233751]

Bridget Prentice: As at September 2008 Her Majesty's Courts Service (HMCS) administers 583 courthouse properties. Local justice areas, county court jurisdiction or Crown court determines where the courts sit, and may provide their court services from one or more court properties within their areas.

In the normal course of operation HMCS reviews its property base to match court work better to the changing pattern of demand and efficient provision of justice. We do not have any current plans to close courts although a number of courthouses (properties) may be combined as part of these plans.

There are no property disposals planned over and above that agreed in the CSR07 MoJ Asset Management Strategy These plans form part of the agreed MoJ Asset Management Strategy. For commercial reasons HMCS does not publish details of any proposed changes to individual locations. In any event, any disposals/changes are subject to agreed consultation processes.

Crime: Victim Support Schemes

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to improve police services for victims of crime. [234104]

Maria Eagle: The Government have placed victims and witnesses at the heart of the criminal justice system and given support services to them a high priority.

Since 2004 the Government have introduced the Code of Practice for Victims of Crime which gives victims legal rights to support and information about their case. They have also supported the development of Victim Support into a strong national organisation able to help more victims more quickly. Victim Support is an independent charity and is the main provider of services to victims and witnesses across England and Wales. Over recent years funding has increased from £11.7 million to £30 million. Victim Support has recently introduced an improved business process, with an additional £12.6 million from Government, so that victims can be contacted quickly, have their needs assessed and, if needed, be offered a wider range of practical services than was previously available.

In addition the Government fund a number of other organisations offering specialist support services through the Victims Fund. £8.2 million has been invested so far, funding services to victims of sexual violence, childhood sexual abuse, hate crime and homicide. The Poppy project supports adult women who have been trafficked into the UK for sexual exploitation and this includes provision for temporarily accommodating victims.

The Office for Criminal Justice Reform (OCJR) has provided £5.6 million since 2007 for independent domestic violence advisers (IDVAs) who provide a service to victims who are at high risk of harm. The money provides IDVAs to support victims as their cases progress through specialist domestic violence courts. The £5.6 million follows £2 million of Home Office funding in 2006-07.

The recently published Youth Crime Action Plan will be improving support services to young victims of crime. The plan has been developed jointly between the OCJR, Ministry of Justice, the Department for Children Schools and Families and the Home Office. The action plan will deliver results on youth justice, youth crime prevention and cross cutting themes on victimisation.

Support after Murder and Manslaughter (SAMM) receives an annual grant of £140,000 to provide advice and support to those bereaved by homicide and presents training to police forces and other statutory agencies (e.g. the Health and Safety Executive) on bereavement awareness issues.

Victims and witnesses have a voice in shaping Government policy and future support services through the Victims Advisory Panel and, shortly, the appointment of a Commissioner for Victims and Witnesses will be able to promote the views of victims and witnesses at the highest levels.

Drugs: Crime

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people have been convicted of *(a)* possession and *(b)* supply of illegal drugs of each classification level in each of the last 10 years; and how many such people received (i) a custodial sentence and (ii) the maximum possible sentence in each case. [232145]

Maria Eagle: The requested information is contained in the following tables. The maximum sentence is available for the most serious possible case of a particular crime. The average sentence for an offence will, rightly, fall well below the maximum.

Number of persons convicted[1] for possessing or supplying illegal drugs by class, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

Offence description	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Possession Class A	6,485	8,167	9,720	10,439	11,548	11,417	10,985	10,737	10,728	11,469
Possession Class B	20,910	27,359	26,687	23,210	22,960	26,139	28,093	8,568	4,362	3,836
Possession Class C	145	187	159	117	371	533	515	8,304	12,170	12,688
Supplying Class A	3,632	3,634	4,098	4,528	5,158	5,253	5,679	5,821	5,975	5,721
Supplying Class B	5,200	5,971	4,484	3,323	2,315	2,346	2,394	1,638	722	568
Supplying Class C	110	97	94	56	57	61	73	832	1,806	2,048

[1] These data are on the principle offence basis.

Source:

OCJR E and A

Number of persons given a custodial sentence[1] for possessing or supplying illegal drugs by class, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

Offence description	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Possessing class A	540	816	966	1,080	1,109	988	907	788	796	796
Possessing class B	395	624	634	460	372	316	370	174	122	112
Possessing class C	13	12	9	6	11	16	7	82	140	175
Supply class A	2,863	2,807	3,320	3,631	4,031	4,064	4,415	4,551	4,203	4,056
Supply class B	643	729	510	349	177	174	201	202	180	170
Supply class C	684	682	610	431	296	279	241	326	643	700

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Number of persons given maximum available sentence[1] for possessing or supplying illegal drugs by class, all courts, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006

Number of persons

Offence description	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Possessing class A	1	—	1	2	—	—	3	3	4	8
Possessing class B	1	1	—	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
Possessing class C	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	3
Supply class A	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1	1	—
Supply class B	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Supply class C	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

Note:

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Source:

OMS Analytical Services

Electoral Administration Act 2006

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the timetable is for the commencement of section 59 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 on ending dual reporting. [233375]

Mr. Straw: Under the terms of section 59 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006, the section may not be commenced until the Electoral Commission has notified the Secretary of State that they are satisfied that they will receive the information they require in relation to holders of relevant elective office.

As my right hon. Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Mr. Wills) said on 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 718, we agree that the current dual reporting requirements are unhelpful. The Committee on Standards and Privileges and the Electoral Commission have been discussing with each other and the Government the commencement of the section. I hope that the section can be commenced soon.

Electoral Register: Students

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to assist local authorities to increase the proportion of students registered to vote. [233723]

Mr. Wills: The Ministry of Justice undertakes a number of activities to encourage young people to participate in democracy, including holding open days for schools and colleges. As part of our Ministerial Youth Outreach Programme my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Bridget Prentice) as Minister for Youth

Engagement hosted our Your Voice Counts conference on 9 October 2007, which was attended by 143 young people, 19 MPs and 41 councillors.

Section 9 of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (EA Act) placed a duty on electoral registration officers (EROs) to take all necessary steps to maintain the electoral register, including sending the annual canvass form more than once and making house to house visits.

In addition, section 69 of the EA Act requires EROs to promote registration and electoral participation within their areas. Responsibility for assisting EROs in meeting this obligation lies with the Electoral Commission which is responsible for issuing guidance ERO on encouraging electoral registration.

Guidance issued by the Commission to help increase registration levels among young people suggests EROs should work with secondary schools and sixth-form colleges to identify and make 16 and 17-year-olds aware of the electoral process. The Commission also suggests that EROs attend university 'freshers' weeks and establish relationships with organisations or college staff responsible for assisting with accommodation, so that student details may be obtained.

It is for each local authority to adopt an approach that is appropriate to local circumstances when encouraging students to register to vote.

Electronic Voting

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he has taken to produce a comprehensive plan for the general operation of e-voting. [233953]

Mr. Wills: The Government are considering what the appropriate next steps are in relation to e-voting, taking account, both of the reports published by the Electoral Commission and the recent consultation on Election day which sought views on other forms of voting.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to commission further pilots of electronic voting kiosks at polling stations. [233954]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans to commission further pilots of electronic voting kiosks in polling stations.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to commission further pilots of electronic counting of ballot papers. [233956]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans to commission further pilots of electronic counting of ballot papers at this time.

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the costs and benefits of electronic counting of ballot papers taking into account the pilots carried out during the 2007 local government elections and the 2008 London Mayoral and London Assembly elections. [233957]

Mr. Wills: The Government have not yet conducted a full cost-benefit analysis for electronic counting. This is because the evidence base is still being informed by the results of pilots and other elections where e-counting is being used.

However, before any request to pilot received from a local authority is approved by Ministers, the Ministry of Justice carries out a value for money assessment, which includes an assessment of the expected costs and benefits. In addition, all pilots are evaluated by the Electoral Commission, which also considers value for money and whether realisation of expected benefits has been achieved, in its reports.

The Greater London assembly, as the body responsible for the conduct of the 2008 London Mayoral and London Assembly elections, are currently conducting a cost/benefit assessment of the use of e-counting at the 2008 election.

National Offender Management Service

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many staff in the Interventions and Substance Misuse Group in the National Offender Management Service have previously worked in *(a)* the Prison Service and *(b)* the Probation Service. [234146]

Mr. Hanson: Of staff currently in post in the National Offender Management Service's Interventions and Substance Misuse Group:

(a) 123 have previously worked in HM Prison Service;

(b) 18 have previously worked in National Probation Service; and

(c) two have previously worked in both HM Prison Service and the National Probation Service.

The Interventions and Substance Misuse Group was established in June 2008 following the amalgamation of National Drug Programme Delivery Unit, Offending Behaviour Programmes Unit, Interventions and Substance Abuse Unit and subsequently in November 2008, Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorders Unit. It is a NOMS headquarters group, within the Commissioning and Operational Policy Directorate, that leads on the Drug Strategy and oversees the policy and delivery of all interventions, both accredited and non-accredited addressing prisoner need across the seven re-offending pathways.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many former *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* Probation Service staff have a permanent post in the National Offender Management Service; [234149]

(2) how many former *(a)* Prison Service and *(b)* Probation Service staff have a seconded position within the National Offender Management Service. [234150]

Mr. Hanson: All former Prison Service and National Probation Service staff now form part of the National Offender Management Service Agency. Staff formerly with a permanent contract continue to have a permanent contract and staff formerly on secondment to the Prison Service or National Probation Service continue to be on secondment.

48,333 permanent full-time equivalent staff that moved from the Prison Service (including Prison Service headquarters) and 20,894 full-time equivalent staff moved from the National Probation Service to the National Offender Management Service. Reliable information on the number of staff on secondment into the Prison and National Probation Services is not available and to obtain it would require a collection exercise across many establishments that would incur disproportionate cost.

Offenders: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a group to compile national guidance on the streamlining and commissioning of drug treatment for offenders has been established. [234561]

Mr. Hanson: A group chaired by Professor Lord Patel has been established to consider options for the streamlining of funding and commissioning arrangements for prison drug treatment. I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements laid jointly with the Minister of State my right hon. Friend the Member for Bristol, South (Dawn Primarolo), Department of Health on 17 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 49WS and 13 June *Official Report*, column 34WS. I intend shortly to make a further written ministerial statement giving an update of progress made.

Offenders: Rehabilitation

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost was of accredited programmes delivered in *(a)* prisons and *(b)* probation services in the latest period for which information is available. [234148]

Mr. Hanson: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) offers a range of programmes to meet different needs and risks of offending. The cost of delivery varies across programmes and by prison establishment and probation area, depending on factors such as the nature, length and intensity of the programmes, volume of delivery and the existing infrastructure.

The average cost per individual completing programmes run by prison and probation services varies from £1,500 to £10,000. The small number of completions for the more intensive programmes for serious violent offenders cost more to deliver.

NOMS is currently undertaking a specifications, benchmarking and costings exercise which will provide more accurate costings of the interventions delivered.

Political Parties: Finance

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether under the proposed new election trigger rules, the local candidate spending limit will be reset if a candidate withdraws their candidature after they have triggered. [233376]

Mr. Straw: The candidate expenditure limit applies to all expenses used on regulated matters by an individual who does so in order to promote his election as a candidate. The spending limit applies to the individual in the event that they contest that election as a candidate. Should an individual withdraw their candidature, their actions would not affect anyone else who may then stand in their place. Each individual candidate can spend up to the spending limit—that is to say the spending limit is personal to the individual and is not transferable between candidates. This is not affected by the amendments to the 1983 Act proposed by clause 10 of the Political Parties and Elections Bill (Bill 141).

Prisoners

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which factors his Department *(a)* deems relevant and *(b)* incorporates when making projections for the future prison population in England and Wales. [234883]

Mr. Hanson: There are many factors and data which are incorporated into the prison population projections to greater or lesser degrees. The most significant factors which the Department deems relevant to and incorporates into the projections are:

Trends in sentencing behaviour, such as sentence lengths and custody rates.

Trends in crime, incorporated through the Criminal Justice System model.

Legislative impacts, such as the Criminal Justice and Immigration Act 2008.

Procedural impacts, such as the Simple, Speedy, Summary Justice (CJSSS) scheme, and measures to increase offences brought to justice contributing to PSA24.

Factors which are deemed relevant but cannot be incorporated are those for which there is no agreed timetable, or those for which the effects cannot be projected with reasonable confidence, such as the effects of increased numbers of European arrest warrants resulting from the UK's involvement in the Schengen Information System 2.

More details on the prison projections may be found in the latest published bulletin, "Prison Population Projections 2008-15" Ministry of Justice Statistics Bulletin, 18 September 2008.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what forecasting model his Department uses to prepare the annual prison population projections for England and Wales. [234888]

Mr. Hanson: The models used to calculate the current prison population projections are described in Appendix C of the Ministry of Justice publication, "Prison Population Projections 2008-2015", published on the Ministry of Justice website in September 2008. There are four elements to the modelling. In the short term (and the first two years) most segments of the population are modelled by a combination of stock-and-flow modelling and the use of the X12-ARIMA method developed by the USA Census Bureau. The X12-ARIMA method is available at:

www.census.gov/srd/www/x12a/.

In the longer term (between two and seven years) most segments of the population use the Grove-Macleod model. This has been published in OR Insight Vol. 11 Issue 1, January-March 1998, pp. 3-9, "Forecasting the prison population". More detail is also available in Occasional Paper 80, "Modelling crime and offending:

recent developments in England and Wales" published on the Home Office website in 2003. The population on indeterminate sentences are not projected by these methods, and these segments instead use a system dynamics model developed by the Dangerous and Severe Personality Disorder Programme. In addition to these models, the impacts of some changes in legislation and operational procedures are estimated using the Criminal Justice System Model and, if necessary, one-off bespoke calculations.

Mr. Garnier: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what account his Department takes of *(a)* sentencing behaviour and *(b)* crime rates when making projections for the future prison population in England and Wales. [234889]

Mr. Hanson: The Ministry of Justice publication "Prison Population Projections 2008-15" provides data for three different scenarios (high, medium and low), each of which is generated by a different trend in sentencing behaviour. These are described in section 3 of the publication, and in more detail in Appendix C.

Trends in crime rates are incorporated through the Criminal Justice System Model, which in turn uses data generated from the Home Office's Crime Trajectory Model. This is described in appendix C of the publication.

Sentencing

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions courts have departed from the sentencing guidelines in each of the last three years, broken down by *(a)* court and *(b)* reason for departure. [233960]

Maria Eagle: The Sentencing Guidelines Council is responsible for framing and revising sentencing and allocation guidelines. The number of departures from guidelines and the reasons for those departures are not recorded.

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* representations he has received and *(b)* discussions he has had with the police on sentencing policy since May 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233961]

Maria Eagle: My right [illegible]riend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr. Straw) and departmental Ministers regularly meet with the police to discuss a wide range of criminal justice issues.

In October the Secretary of State replied to a letter from the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police about knife crime and the courts.

Voting Methods

Mrs. Laing: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans his Department has to commission further pilots of advance voting. [233955]

Mr. Wills: The Government have no plans at present to commission further advance voting pilots.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to reply to Question 219327, tabled on 14 July 2008, on guidance to courts. [233958]

Mr. Straw: I replied to the hon. and learned Member on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 623-24W. I apologise for the delay.

Young Offender Institutions: Prisoners Release

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were released from young offender institutions between April and September 2008. [234217]

Mr. Hanson: The number of prisoners released from young offender institutions following the completion of a determinate sentence between April and September 2008 was approximately 6,400. These data are provisional until final data are published in the Ministry of Justice statistical bulletin Offender Management Caseload Statistics (OMCS).

OMCS 2007 was published on 30 October. Tables 9.1 and 9.2 shows data on discharges from prison. Copies of the bulletin have been placed in the House Libraries and found at the following web link:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Employment

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what measures exist to help place young offenders into employment following release from custody. [232182]

Mr. Hanson: All probation areas support offenders in improving access to employment opportunities and make significant financial investment to employment interventions. Specialist employment staff are also directly employed by probation areas or engaged through partnership arrangements with the voluntary and community sector.

In 2007-08, a total of 16,823 offenders supervised by the National Probation Service gained employment and sustained it for at least four weeks during the year, exceeding the performance target of 13,200 by 27 per cent. It is not possible to separate figures for young offenders only.

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many *(a)* national and *(b)* regional meetings were conducted during the course of his Department's policy consultation on alcohol strategy; and who (i) was invited to and (ii) attended each; [228145]

(2) what the criteria were for selecting those invited to attend the four regional consultation meetings on his Department's policy consultation on alcohol strategy. [228146]

Dawn Primarolo: A series of national meetings were held during the consultation period with 88 representatives from stakeholder organisations covering crime and disorder, health, young people and the alcohol industry. The stakeholder organisations invited to these meetings and those that attended are listed as follows. In addition, officials met industry chief executives at the alcohol industry public affairs directors meeting on 20 August 2008.

Stakeholder organisations invited:

Association of Chief Police Officers
Police Superintendents' Association
Police Federation
Association of Police Authorities
British Transport Police
Unison
Society of Local Authority Chief Executives and Senior Mangers
Local Government Association
Local Better Regulation Office
Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)
Trading Standards
Taunton Deane
Association of Town Centre Management
Trading Standards Institute
Metropolitan Police
Home Office
Newcastle University
Royal College of Physicians
St. George's—University of London
North West Public Health Observatory
Alcohol Concern
Cardiff University
Royal Pharmaceutical Society for the UK
Northumbria University
Birmingham University
University of Central London
South London and Maudsley NHS Foundation Trust
CompuServe
Turning Point
Royal College of General Practitioners
Equinox
National Treatment Agency
Southampton University
University of Kent
European Association for the Treatment of Addiction
Alcoholics Anonymous
Royal College of Psychiatrists
Royal College of Nursing
National Association of Cider Makers
Association of Convenience Stores
Advertising Standards Authority
Association of Licensed Multiple Retailers
The Voice of the Nighttime Economy (Noctis)
Guild of Master Victuallers
Society of Independent Brewers
British Beer and Pub Association
British Institute of Inn Keepers
British Retail Consortium
Gin and Vodka Association
Scotch Whisky Association
Portman Group
Wine and Spirits Trade Association
The Advertising Association
Tourism Alliance
Federation of Licensed Victuallers Associations
Tesco
Asda
Morrisons
Sainsbury
Marks & Spencer
Majestic
Threshers
Co-op
Diageo
Pernod-Ricard
Bacardi
Brown Forman
Beam Global
Constellation
Gallo
Fosters
Adfam
Mentor UK
Drug Education Forum
National Children's Home
DrinkAware Trust
Local Government Association
4Children
National Children's Bureau
The Children's Society
Addaction
Family Welfare Association
Turning Point
Parentline Plus
Youthnet
National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children
Barnardos
Fostering Network

Stakeholder organisations that attended:

The Voice of the Nighttime Economy (Noctis)
Guild of Master Victuallers
Scotch Whisky Association
Association of Convenience Stores
The Advertising Association
Portman Group
Tourism Alliance
Advertising Standards Authority
Wine and Spirits Trade Association
Society of Independent Brewers
The Gin and Vodka Association
Association of Chief Police Officers
British Transport Police
Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACORS)
Trading Standards

Royal College of Nursing
Royal College of Physicians
Royal Pharmaceutical Society for the UK
University of Kent
Parentline Plus
Adfam
Youthnet
Mentor UK

Four regional events were held in Bristol, Newcastle, Liverpool and London during the Government's consultation on what action should be taken in response to the rising levels of alcohol health harm and crime and disorder.

To be invited each organisation had to meet one of the following criteria—that they represented either diverse groups, enforcement and local authorities, the national health service, other health providers, manufacturers of alcohol, those in the alcohol off-licensed trade or those in the alcohol on-licensed trade.

In total 2,592 organisations were invited to these regional events and the following table breaks down this figure for each event and into the number invited, the number that accepted and the number that attended.

			Number	
		Invited	*Accepted*	*Attended*
Bristol	Diverse groups	33	2	2
	Enforcement and local authorities	217	15	11
	Health—NHS	146	8	7
	Health—other	0	0	0
	Manufacturers	48	0	0
	Off-trade	39	1	0
	On-trade	208	9	1
	Total	691	35	21
Newcastle	Diverse groups	36	3	3
	Enforcement and local authorities	163	32	26
	Health—NHS	102	23	18
	Health—other	3	2	1
	Manufacturers	23	0	0
	Off-trade	28	0	0
	On-trade	110	0	0
	Total	465	60	48
Liverpool	Diverse groups	19	5	2
	Enforcement and local authorities	64	11	8
	Health—NHS	110	17	13
	Health—other	1	1	1
	Manufacturers	36	1	1
	Off-trade	25	0	0
	On-trade	141	5	0
	Total	396	40	25
London	Diverse groups	74	8	8
	Enforcement and local authorities	508	33	25
	Health—NHS	273	10	7
	Health—other	6	5	4
	Manufacturers	31	3	1
	Off-trade	30	2	0
	On-trade	118	4	2
	Total	1040	65	47
Totals	Diverse groups	162	18	15
	Enforcement and local authorities	952	91	70
	Health—NHS	631	58	45
	Health—other	10	8	6
	Manufacturers	138	4	2
	Off-trade	122	3	0
	On-trade	577	18	3
	Total	2,592	200	141

Cancer: Health Services

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent on *(a)* cancer drugs and *(b)* cancer in-patient services in each of the last five years. [233659]

Ann Keen: Information on spending on cancer drugs and on cancer in-patient services in each of the last five years is not available centrally.

However, in 2006 approximately £729 million was spent on cancer drugs. Around £4.35 billion is spent annually on cancer services. Approximately 27 per cent. of this is spent on in-patient costs (excluding those costs related to surgery).

Cholesterol

Mr. Keetch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the level of serum cholesterol above which the application of cholesterol-reducing measures among populations at risk of coronary heart disease is cost-effective; [233171]

(2) what information he has collected for benchmarking purposes on target serum cholesterol levels in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other EU member states and *(c)* the USA; [233172]

(3) what estimate he has made of the number of heart attacks that might be avoided by treating serum cholesterol down to *(a)* current quality and outcomes framework levels and *(b)* the suggested JBS2 target levels among at-risk populations; and if he will make a statement. [233173]

David Maclean: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will commission research to establish down to what level of serum cholesterol value for money could be achieved in applying cholesterol-reducing measures among populations at risk of coronary heart disease; [233546]

(2) what reductions in serum cholesterol in at-risk populations have been achieved in *(a)* spearhead primary care trusts (PCTs) and *(b)* other PCTs; and what the Government's target reductions are in each case; [233548]

(3) what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of heart attacks that would arise from treating serum cholesterol down to *(a)* current quality outcomes framework levels and *(b)* the proposed target levels of the Joint British Societies' guidelines on prevention of cardiovascular disease among at-risk populations; [233550]

(4) what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on target serum cholesterol levels in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other EU member states and *(c)* the USA; and if he will make a statement. [233551]

Ann Keen: It is the role of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to set out best practice on standards for treatment and prevention of heart disease.

In May 2008, NICE published a clinical guideline on lipid modification (managing cholesterol levels) entitled "Cardiovascular risk assessment and the modification of blood lipids for the primary and secondary prevention of cardiovascular disease".

NICE guidance is developed using the best available evidence from the scientific community. When reviewing the evidence, NICE ensures that the implementation of any new guidance is cost-effective for the local NHS organisations.

Around three million people are currently receiving statin therapy to reduce cholesterol levels, saving an estimated 10,000 lives every year, as well as reducing the number of heart attacks.

Christmas

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget his Department has allocated for Christmas parties in 2008, broken down by *(a)* directorate and *(b)* unit. [234363]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has put aside no budget for Christmas parties in 2008.

In line with previous practice, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State may host a reception for journalists in December. The cost, expected to be less than last year's cost of £1,079.30, would be met from the communications budget.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 377W, on dementia: research, what estimate his Department had initially made of *(a)* the number of written responses it would receive to the consultation and *(b)* how long it would take to assess the financial implications of the final strategy. [234365]

Phil Hope: The Department had expected a significant response to the consultation, but no specific number of written responses was anticipated. The time taken to determine the financial implications of a strategy cannot easily be assessed in advance. This will always be dependant on any changes made to the contents following consultation.

Dental Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the cost of the next national survey of oral health; and if he will make a statement; [233834]

(2) what plans his Department has put in place for the completion of a national oral health survey; when this survey is due to begin; and when he expects the findings of the survey will be reported to his Department; [233836]

(3) for what reason a national oral health survey was not undertaken in 2007-08; what steps he plans to take to commission a survey in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [234188]

Ann Keen: Planning took longer than anticipated, but we are pleased to confirm that the Department has now commissioned the National Health Service Information Centre to let a contract for an updated Adult Dental Health Survey within an allocation of £3 million. An EU procurement exercise is underway and it is anticipated that this will be completed, and that a contract will be let, by the end of 2008. Subject to tenders, the survey fieldwork is planned to begin in 2009, with results to be published by the end of 2010.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what expenditure his Department incurred in undertaking the most recent national survey of oral health. [233835]

Ann Keen: The last national oral health survey, which was of children's oral health, was conducted in 2003 at a cost of £400,000.

Departmental Equality

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what equality and diversity awards his Department has *(a)* been eligible for, *(b)* been shortlisted for and *(c)* won in the last 12 months. [233771]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has not been nominated for any equality and diversity awards in the last 12 months.

Departmental Internet

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* page hits and *(b)* visitors his Department's website received in 2007-08.[1] [233529]

Mr. Bradshaw: For the period January 2007 to October 2008 there were 190,428,774 page hits to the Department's website. For the same period, there were 18,115,842 unique visitors to the Department's website.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of maintaining his Department's website was in 2007-08; and what the forecast cost of maintaining it is in 2008-09. [233530]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost of maintaining the Department's website in 2007-08 was £1.169 million.

The forecast cost of maintaining the Department's website in 2008-09 is £1.081 million.

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1. *[Official Report, 10 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 4MC.]*

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data were lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231442]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not differentiate between stolen, missing or lost equipment. The portable equipment lost or stolen for the period April 2007 to March 2008 is as follows:

Items	*Total items lost during the year*
Mobile phones	21
Pagers	0
Laptops	14
Psions, PalmPilots, Ipaqs, Blackberrys	9
Laptop Projectors	1
Other IT equipment	0
Total losses	45

The Department takes the security and protection of its assets very seriously. Its policy and procedures are constantly reviewed and cases of losses or thefts are investigated. As a further deterrent, the Department marks its portable equipment with an invisible forensic dye called Smartwater. The Department's Security Unit continues to raise security awareness and physical protection of information technology equipment among its staff.

The Department has recorded one personal data related incident in 2007-08 in its Resource Accounts published on 10 October 2008. This concerned the Medical Training Application Service website where personal details of some junior doctors were erroneously made available as a result of action taken by a third party managing data on the Department's behalf, contrary to the instructions on data handling issued to them by the Department.

Departmental Manpower

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent posts there have been in each of his Department's arm's length bodies in each year since 2003-04; and what the planned staffing numbers for each such body are for each year to 2010-11. [233660]

Mr. Bradshaw: The whole-time equivalent posts for each of the Department's arms length bodies, for the years 2004-05 to 2008-09, are shown in the following table.

Arms length bodies (ALBs) whole time equivalent posts from 2004-05 to 2008-09

ALB	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 Forecast*
Healthcare Commission	771	771	889	830	828
Mental Health Act Commission	36	43	42	42	48
Commission for Social Care Inspection	2,622	2,492	2,335	2,098	1,502
Monitor	28	28	28	50	50
Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority	106	103	82	82	82
Human Tissue Authority	20	20	42	42	42
Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	11	11	12	12	15
General Social Care Council[2]	262	264	301	228	252
Postgraduate Medical Education and Training Board[1]	36	67	51	50	58
Dental Vocational Training Authority	3	—	—	—	—
Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency[1]	807	827	831	862	943
National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence	230	217	230	233	267
National Patient Safety Agency	306	311	299	294	294
Health Protection Agency[1]	3,214	3,287	3,248	3,394	3,414
National Institute for Biological Standards and Control	308	313	313	312	325
National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse	116	126	166	132	173
Commission for Patient and Public Involvement in Health	189	118	114	114	0
NHS Blood and Transplant	6,213	6,155	6,110	5,927	5,566
NHS Litigation Authority	166	176	176	176	145
Health and Social Care Information Centre[2]	366	366	354	316	468
NHS Institute for Improvement and Innovation[2]	170	170	175	175	217
NHS Appointments Commission	51	57	42	42	55
NHS Logistics	1,462	1,462	0	—	—
NHS Business Services Authority	2,838	3,084	2,722	2,648	2,466
NHS Purchasing and Supplies Agency	356	353	332	332	289
NHS Direct	3,461	3,461	2,227	—	—
NHS Professionals	807	742	740	740	393

Arms length bodies (ALBs) whole time equivalent posts from 2004-05 to 2008-09

ALB	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09 Forecast*
NHS Estates	412	0	—	—	—
Totals	25,367	25,024	21,861	19,131	17,892

[1] Several ALBs undertake trading/income generation activities and increases in headcount reflect increases in activity.

[2] Several ALBs have been given additional areas of responsibility, which has resulted in additional headcount.

Notes:

1. See following table.
2. The ALB Review started in 2004-05 so figures have been provided from that year onwards. Figures for 2003-04 have not been previously collected so will require a significant exercise to obtain and therefore are not available at this moment in time.
3. The planning cycle for 2009-10 and 2010-11 is currently in hand so firm figures are not yet available.
4. For 2004-05 to 2007-08 the figures stated are actuals at the end of the financial year (31 March). For 2008-09 the data shown are the planned figures for 31 March 2009.

Note 1.

Connecting for Health is not an arms length body (ALB) but has previously been included in ALB figures so is shown for completeness.

	Connecting for Health
2004-05	786
2005-06	605
2006-07	605
2007-08	605
2008-09 forecast	605

Depressive Illnesses: Elderly

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of people aged 65 and over who have depression; what estimate he has made of the proportion of those people who have been *(a)* diagnosed and *(b)* treated; and if he will make a statement. [233809]

Phil Hope: The Department does not have this information. However, data derived from the Business Services Authority's Exemption Category Estimates indicate that between July 2007 to June 2008, 40.2 per cent. of items dispensed for the treatment of depression were given to people aged 60 and over. This is based on a full analysis of all prescriptions dispensed in the community.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients are *(a)* in treatment for drug programmes, *(b)* receiving abstinence-based residential rehabilitation and *(c)* receiving abstinence-based rehabilitation on a day care basis. [232882]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) records data about people receiving structured drug treatment in England. The most recent NDTMS data are for 2007-08 and show that 202,666 individuals were in structured drug treatment. There were 4,306 recorded in residential rehabilitation and 6,742 adults received in-patient services in hospital. There may be some overlap between these two groups. NDTMS does not collect data on the number of patients receiving abstinence based rehabilitation on a day care basis.

About one-third of the 100-plus providers of residential rehabilitation services in England do not submit any returns to NDTMS. As independent, voluntary sector organisations, they are not obliged to do so, and the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse has no powers to compel them.

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which sites offer treatment incentives for drug users; and how many service users have been offered treatment incentives at each such site since the programme's inception, broken down by incentive offered. [232883]

Dawn Primarolo: The pilot programme of the use of incentives, also known as contingency management, began in June 2008, and currently involves 14 treatment services across England, offering a number of different treatment incentive models over varying timeframes. The programme finishes at the end of December, after which the programme's results and best practice guidance will be published. Information on the number of people offered incentives and the value of the incentives will be collected as part of the evaluation, but is not yet available.

The 14 treatment services taking part in the pilot programme are:

Addiction Recovery Agency, North Somerset Drug and Alcohol Agency Service;

Barking and Dagenham Substance Misuse Engagement Team (Essex);

Barnet Drug and Alcohol Service;

Bath and North East Somerset Community Safety and Drug Partnership;

Blood Borne Virus Project (Birmingham);

Counted4Community Interest Company (Wearside Substance Misuse Team);

Countywide Specialist Substance Misuse Service (CSSMS) (Gloucestershire Partnership NHS Trust);

Drug Advisory Service (DASH) (Tottenham);

Lambeth Harbour (Blenheim/CDP);

Lancashire Care NHS Trust Substance Misuse Service;

Mid Sussex Community Substance Misuse Team;

Newcastle and North Tyneside Addictions Service;

The Point Needle Exchange (Hull); and

Project Answer (North Tyneside).

Enfield Primary Care Trust: Manpower

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* district nurses and *(b)* health visitors were employed by Enfield Primary Care Trust in (i) 1997 and (ii) at the latest date for which figures are available. [233892]

Ann Keen: The number of district nurse and health visitors employed by Enfield Primary Care Trust (PCT) in each year from 2001 to 2007 can be found in the following table. Enfield PCT was formed in October 2001; comparable figures prior to this date are not available.

NHS hospital and community health services: district nurses and health visitors in Enfield primary care trust as at 30 September each specified year

	2001	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Health visitors	55	59	65	58	56	50	50
District nurses	43	51	70	65	114	105	129

Notes:

1. Enfield PCT was formed in October 2001. Comparable figures prior to this date are not available.

2. Data quality: work force statistics are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data. Processing methods and procedures are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where this happens, any impact on figures already published will be assessed but unless this is significant at national level, they will not be changed. Where there is impact only at detailed or local level, this will be footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre Non Medical Workforce Census.

Ex-servicemen: Mental Health Services

Mr. Morley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance is provided to GPs on the range of NHS services available to ex-military personnel suffering from combat stress and associated problems. [233973]

Mr. Bradshaw: The vast majority of ex-military personnel receive treatment for service related and other difficulties in the same way as the rest of the population.

To ensure that the national health service is doing all that it can for people who have served their country, we have created two additional initiatives. We have set up pilot schemes in nine NHS Mental Health Trusts in the UK to help ensure that veterans are able to access the treatment they need. We are evaluating this with the intention of rolling out best practice throughout the NHS.

Although we have not issued specific guidance to general practitioners (GPs) we have recently issued a document entitled Commissioning IAPT for the Whole Community that makes specific reference to the ways in which primary care trusts can ensure that their veterans population has access to the mental health help they need. We would expect that this guidance would inform local commissioning of primary care services, including GPs.

General Practitioners: Disadvantaged

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on the opening of new general practitioner practices in deprived areas; and if he will make a statement. [233806]

Mr. Bradshaw: We are introducing 112 new general practitioner (GP) practices in the areas that need them most as part of the £250 million investment in new primary care services. We have made good progress to date, with the majority of primary care trusts (PCTs) on target to award and sign contracts by the end of December 2008 with service commencement expected during 2009. The new practices will help to address existing inequalities of health care around the country, by providing more capacity in primary care, and more choice for patients in the most deprived areas of where and when they can access GP services.

General Practitioners: Pay

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made for benchmarking purposes of average pay for general practitioners in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* other Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development countries and *(c)* other EU countries. [233808]

Ann Keen: Since the introduction of the new general practitioner (GP) contract in 2004, GP practices in the UK have been able to increase their income by increasing the range and quality of services they provide for their patients, for example by extending their surgery opening times. This is reflected in the average pay of a general practitioner partner. It is not possible to compare the level and quality of services provided in the UK with that in other countries and any benchmarking of average pay would therefore be of very limited value.

Health Centres

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 64W, on health centres, (1) what the postcode of each planned new GP-led health centre is; what the expected service commencement date of each is; and in which primary care trust each is to be located, according to the most recent monthly update information provided by primary care trusts; [231064]

(2) against which core criteria of his Department's GP-led health centres programme he requires primary care trusts to provide monthly updates. [231065]

Mr. Bradshaw: A table containing the latest information has been placed in the Library.

The core criteria that primary care trusts are asked to report against in their monthly returns is set out as follows:

Achievement of last milestone;

Expected achievement of next milestone;

Last completed task;

Expected service commencement;

Specification meets core criteria; and

Postcode location.

Health Insurance

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of people who have private medical insurance. [233734]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collect this information centrally.

However, Laing's Healthcare Market Review estimates that there were 3,683,000 private medical insurance subscribers in the United Kingdom at the end of 2007.

Source:

Laing's Healthcare Market Review—21st Edition 2008-09, Laing and Buisson 2008.

Health Services: Discrimination

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason age is not included in the draft NHS Constitution as a basis for discrimination in the provision of NHS services. [233810]

Ann Keen: The draft NHS constitution, which was open for consultation until 17 October, makes a powerful commitment against unfair discrimination of any kind.

The first principle in the draft constitution is that

> "the NHS provides a comprehensive service, available to all irrespective of gender, race, disability, age, religion or sexual orientation".

The draft constitution also says that patients

> "have the right not to be unlawfully discriminated against in the provision of NHS services including on grounds of gender, race, religion, sexual orientation, disability (including learning disability or mental illness)".

The only reason this list does not include age is that the draft constitution only refers to "rights" that are legally binding, and age discrimination is not currently prohibited by law.

However, the Government have made clear in the 2008-09 draft legislative programme that we intend to legislate on age discrimination in a forthcoming Equality Bill. Subject to parliamentary approval, age discrimination will become unlawful and will therefore automatically be covered by the right not to be unlawfully discriminated against.

Healthy Start Scheme

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* qualified for Healthy Start, *(b)* took up Healthy Start vouchers and *(c)* used Healthy Start vouchers to purchase Healthy Start products in each year since Healthy Start began. [233289]

Dawn Primarolo: The numbers qualifying for Healthy Start fluctuate according to the numbers of pregnant women and young children in families getting the qualifying benefits and tax credits. We estimate that approximately 473,000 families qualified for support from the scheme when it was launched across the UK on 28 November 2006. All of these families were transferred automatically from the old Welfare Food Scheme onto the new scheme without having to apply for it.

On 27 October 2008, approximately 409,500 families were receiving vouchers.

Most Healthy Start vouchers are issued for use within a specific four-week period and retailers have six months from the end of that period to claim payment for them. Retailers claimed payment for approximately 87 per cent. of all vouchers issued for use between 27 November 2006 and 25 November 2007. This rose to 89 per cent. of all vouchers issued for use between 26 November 2007 and 16 March 2008.

Hepatitis

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 424-5W, on hepatitis, how many drugs were dispensed for the treatment of hepatitis B in each strategic health authority area in each year since 1997, broken down by type of drug. [231966]

Dawn Primarolo: The following three tables show the number of prescription items dispensed in the community for the treatment of hepatitis B. The information is provided according to the individual British National Formulary (BNF) categories hepatitis B drugs fall within. Figures are split by strategic health authority (SHA) and presented in thousands. The data do not cover drugs dispensed in hospitals, including mental health trusts, or private prescriptions.

Due to the disclosive nature of the data, it was not possible to present the data by type of drug. As such, data were aggregated to BNF category to maintain some measure of difference between drug type.

BNF paragraph 8.2.4—Other immunomodulating drugs

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 8.2.4, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

Thousand

SHA[2, 3]	*Jul-Dec 2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Jan-Jun 2008*
East Midlands	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	[4]—
East of England	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.1	0.1	[4]—
London	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.1
North East	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
North West	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1
South Central	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.1	[4]—
South East Coast	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1	0.1	0.1
South West	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.1	0.2	0.1
West Midlands	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2	0.2	0.1

BNF paragraph 8.2.4—Other immunomodulating drugs

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 8.2.4, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

Thousand

SHA[2,3]	*Jul-Dec 2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Jan-Jun 2008*
Yorkshire and the Humber	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	[4]—
England	1.0	1.7	1.7	1.3	1.3	0.6

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHA reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
[4] Indicates 50 or fewer items were dispensed during the period

Source:

The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

BNF paragraph 5.3.3—Viral hepatitis

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 5.3.3, which were dipensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

Thousand

SHA[2,3]	*Jul-Dec 2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Jan-Jun 2008*
East Midlands	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
East of England	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	[4]—	0.1	0.1
London	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.5	0.6	0.3
North East	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—
North West	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
South Central	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
South East Coast	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
South West	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1	0.1
West Midlands	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
Yorkshire and the Humber	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	[4]—	0.1	0.1
England	0.1	0.3	0.5	0.9	1.5	1.0

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHA reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
[4] Indicates 50 or fewer items were dipensed during the period

Source:

The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

BNF paragraph 5.3.1-HIV infection

Number of prescription items used in the treatment of hepatitis B from BNF section 5.3.1, which were dispensed in the community in England from July 2003 to June 2008[1]

Thousand

SHA[2,3]	*Jul-Dec 2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*Jan-Jun 2008*
East Midlands	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.2
East of England	0.2	0.4	0.5	0.6	0.8	0.4
London	0.7	1.7	1.9	2.4	3	1.6
North East	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.2	0.1
North West	0.3	0.5	0.5	0.6	0.7	0.4
South Central	0.1	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3	0.2
South East Coast	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2
South West	0.1	0.2	0.3	0.4	0.4	0.2
West Midlands	0.3	0.6	0.6	0.7	0.7	0.4
Yorkshire and the Humber	0.1	0.3	0.3	0.4	0.5	0.3
England	2.0	4.5	5.1	6.4	7.4	4.0

[1] Information at SHA level is only available for the past 60 months.
[2] The data have been structured in line with current SHA arrangements. The structure changed during 2006 where the number of SHA reduced.
[3] The tables show drugs which may be used to treat hepatitis B, by SHA.
[4] Indicates 50 or fewer items were dispensed during the period

Source:

The Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority (NHSBSA (PPD))

The following product list was identified for use in the treatment of hepatitis B. It includes specific brands licensed for the treatment of hepatitis B and drugs that may also be licensed for use in other indications. BNF 55, NHS Choices Map of Medicine and NICE Technology Appraisal 96 have been used to identify the products. The data provided have been aggregated from the following specific brands to the respective BNF category as indicated. It does not include those products used for the prevention of hepatitis B.

BNF Paragraph 8.2.4: Other immunomodulating drugs; includes the products IntronA, Pegasys, Roferon-A and Viraferon. These drugs can also be used in other indications. Other products in this BNF chapter not used in the treatment of hepatitis B have been excluded.

BNF Paragraph 5.3.3: Viral hepatitis; includes the products Baraclude, Hepsera and Sebivo. These drugs are only indicated for use with hepatitis B.

BNF Category 5.3.1: HIV infection; includes the products Viread and Zeffix. These drugs can also be used in other indications. Other products in this BNF chapter not used in the treatment of hepatitis B have been excluded.

Herbal Medicine: Licensing

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency on its proposals for increasing charges for herbal product registrations under the provisions of the Traditional Herbal Medicinal Products Directive; what assessment the Agency has made of the impact of such increases on small and medium-sized manufacturers of herbal remedies; and what assessment he has made of the effect of those increases on the costs of compliance with the provisions of the Directive. [233503]

Dawn Primarolo: I recently approved the proposals of the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to consult on increasing its fees from 1 April 2009. Those proposals affect all sectors of the pharmaceutical industry and include a general increase in fees for the traditional herbal sector of around 4 per cent. The consultation letter, including an impact assessment of the proposals, was published on 15 October 2008 and all sectors of the pharmaceutical industry have been alerted and invited to comment. The consultation exercise closes on 7 January 2009 and the MHRA would particularly welcome comments from smaller and medium sized companies. A copy of the consultation letter including the impact assessment proposals has been placed in the Library.

Hospital Episode Statistics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects the Hospital Episode Statistics for 2007-08 to be available. [229969]

Mr. Bradshaw: The 2007-08 Hospital Episodes Statistics data will be published in the week commencing 15 December 2008.

Liver Diseases: Screening

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to introduce a national screening programme for liver disease. [233661]

Ann Keen: The Government have no current plans to introduce a national screening programme for liver disease.

We are concerned about the increasing incidence of and mortality from liver disease. We are already taking action on a number of fronts to combat its primary causes—alcohol misuse, viral hepatitis and obesity.

We are now considering the possibility of developing a national plan for liver disease, which would cover early detection and health promotion as well as the full range of health services.

Malnutrition: Standards

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 18 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 298W, on malnutrition: standards, what assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the arrangements that general practitioners have in place to ensure the identification of patients with malnutrition; and if he will make a statement. [232368]

Mr. Bradshaw: The identification of patients suffering from malnutrition would be considered as part of the provision of normal essential services delivered in general practice.

This requires practitioners to exercise their clinical judgment on a case-by-case basis recognising the needs of individual patients and based on modern authoritative practice. Primary care trusts are responsible for managing contracts with practices and ensuring they deliver the requirements in the contract, including essential services.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 1 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1761W, on the NHS: ICT, whether the contractual limitation on payments which applies to his Department's liability provides that Fujitsu shall not be paid *(a)* the full value of the contract and *(b)* for work not delivered. [233770]

Mr. Bradshaw: The contractual limitations and terms applicable to the Fujitsu contract provide that Fujitsu will not be paid for any work not delivered. Similarly, the full value of the contract is greater than the financial cap on the Department's liability.

NHS: Personal Records

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 3 June 2008, *Official Report*, columns 909-10W, on NHS: personal records, if he will place in the Library a copy of each report by the National Patient Safety Agency on incidents relating to patient safety made since December 2007. [233731]

Ann Keen: The National Patient Safety Agency (NPSA) has published two quarterly data summary reports from the National Reporting and Learning System (NRLS) since December 2007. Issues eight and nine of Patient safety incident reports in the NHS: National Reporting and Learning System Data Summary have been placed in the Library.

NHS: Translation Services

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the *(a)* West Hertfordshire NHS Acute Trust and *(b)* West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust spent on translators in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007 and (iv) 2008 to date. [234189]

Mr. Bradshaw: The data requested are not collected centrally. National health service bodies are not required to report their planned or actual spending on interpretation and translation services to the Department. When planning such services, NHS bodies should take account of their legal duties, the composition of the communities they serve, and the needs and circumstances of their patients, service users and local populations.

Nurses: Ethics

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what guidance *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Chief Nursing Officer have issued to primary care trusts on procedures for appointment of nurses to hospital posts with duties including termination of pregnancy since 1997; and if he will make a statement; [233965]

(2) whether student nurses are required to undertake duties involving termination of pregnancy as part of their training; and if he will make a statement. [233966]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department last issued guidance in 1994 in PL CMO(94)8 and PL CNO(94)10 "Termination of pregnancy by medical methods: the role of the registered nurse or midwife and others who are not registered medical practitioners". The document has been placed in the Library. In addition, the Royal College of Nursing issued guidance in October 2008: "Abortion care, RCN guidance for nurses, midwives and specialist community public health nurses".

Both documents reaffirm that section 4 of the Abortion Act 1967 allows nurses to opt out of participating in any treatment for abortion to which they have a conscientious objection. As such, student nurses are not required to undertake termination of pregnancy as part of their training but they are taught theory and implications of the Abortion Act.

Nurses: Pay

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will place in the Library copies of papers and correspondence written by *(a)* his Chief Nursing Officer, *(b)* his Director General of Workforce and *(c)* the NHS Chief Executive on the 2007-08 pay settlement for nurses in the NHS. [234364]

Ann Keen: We are not aware of any official comments made by the Chief Nursing Officer, the Director General of Workforce or the NHS Chief Executive David Nicholson regarding the 2007-2008 pay settlement for nurses in the NHS.

Offensive Weapons: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people aged 16 years and under were arrested for carrying knives in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in the last year for which figures are available. [234827]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

From these centrally reported data we are not able to identify knife possession offences from within the main offence groups.

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients received home oxygen in each *(a)* supplier and *(b)* primary care trust area in the latest period for which figures are available. [231978]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not collect this information.

Palliative Care

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the use of the Liverpool Pathway for Terminal Care. [231589]

Phil Hope: The Liverpool Care Pathway for the Dying Patient (LCP) is an established and respected evidence-based tool that is used extensively throughout the national health service for the care of people at the end of life. It is recommended in the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's Guidance on Supportive and Palliative Care and is also commended in the Government's recently published End of Life Care Strategy for adults. The Government supported the roll-out of the LCP, and other tried and tested tools, through the NHS End of Life Care programme (2004 to 2007) to help improve the care given to people at the end of life.

Powers of Entry

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many powers of entry have been established in legislation introduced by his Department since 1997; and how many have been abolished. [228058]

Mr. Bradshaw: I refer the right hon. and learned Member to the written answer given to him by the Home Office on 22 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 452W, as well as the revised table which has already been placed in the Library to which the response refers.

Primary Care Trusts

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what spearhead group primary care trusts there are; whether the group is changed as appropriate with each change in the index of multiple deprivation; and what targets there are in which the spearhead trusts are differentiated from other trusts. [233602]

Mr. Bradshaw: There are 70 local authorities in the Spearhead Group that map to 62 primary care trusts. The names of the Spearhead Group trusts are in the following table. The group was established as part of the 2004 Spending Review using the Index of Multiple Deprivation 2004, among other criteria. The Spearhead Group is fixed and does not change if the deprivation index changes.

The public service agreement targets for life expectancy inequalities and the inequalities elements of the cancer and heart disease PSA targets specifically aim to narrow the inequality gap between the Spearhead Group and the England average.

Local authorities in the Spearhead Group

Barking and Dagenham
Barnsley
Barrow-in-Furness
Birmingham
Blackburn with Darwen
Blackpool
Blyth Valley
Bolsover
Bolton
Bradford
Burnley
Bury
Carlisle
Chester-le-Street
Corby
Coventry
Derwentside
Doncaster
Easington
Gateshead
Greenwich
Hackney
Halton
Hammersmith and Fulham
Haringey
Hartlepool
Hyndburn
Islington
Kingston upon Hull, City of
Knowsley
Lambeth
Leicester
Lewisham
Lincoln
Liverpool
Manchester
Middlesbrough
Newcastle upon Tyne
Newham
North East Lincolnshire
North Tyneside
Nottingham
Nuneaton and Bedworth
Oldham
Pendle
Preston
Redcar and Cleveland
Rochdale
Rossendale
Rotherham
Salford
Sandwell
Sedgefield
South Tyneside
Southwark
St. Helens
Stockton-on-Tees
Stoke-on-Trent
Sunderland
Tameside
Tamworth
Tower Hamlets
Wakefield
Walsall
Wansbeck
Warrington
Wear Valley
Wigan
Wirral
Wolverhampton

Primary care trusts in the Spearhead Group

Ashton, Leigh and Wigan PCT
Barking and Dagenham PCT
Barnsley PCT
Birmingham East and North PCT
Blackburn with Darwen PCT
Blackpool PCT
Bolton PCT
Bradford and Airedale Teaching PCT
Bury PCT
Central Lancashire PCT
City and Hackney Teaching PCT
County Durham PCT
Coventry Teaching PCT
Cumbria PCT
Derbyshire County PCT
Doncaster PCT
East Lancashire Teaching PCT
Gateshead PCT
Greenwich Teaching PCT
Halton and St. Helens PCT
Hammersmith and Fulham PCT
Haringey Teaching PCT
Hartlepool PCT
Heart of Birmingham PCT
Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale PCT
Hull Teaching PCT
Islington PCT
Knowsley PCT
Lambeth PCT
Leicester City PCT
Lewisham PCT
Lincolnshire Teaching PCT
Liverpool PCT
Manchester PCT
Middlesbrough PCT
Newcastle PCT
Newham PCT
North East Lincolnshire PCT
North Tees PCT
North Tyneside PCT
Northamptonshire Teaching PCT
Northumberland Care Trust
Nottingham City PCT
Oldham PCT
Redcar and Cleveland PCT
Rotherham PCT

Salford PCT
Sandwell PCT
South Birmingham PCT
South Staffordshire PCT
South Tyneside PCT
Southwark PCT
Stoke on Trent PCT
Sunderland Teaching PCT
Tameside and Glossop PCT
Tower Hamlets PCT
Wakefield District PCT
Walsall Teaching PCT
Warrington PCT
Warwickshire PCT
Wirral PCT
Wolverhampton City PCT

Slaughterhouses: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what inspection costs were incurred by abattoirs in each region in each of the last 10 years. [234207]

Dawn Primarolo *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: The gross operating cost of the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) by region—including inspection activities in abattoirs, tasks for Government Departments such as Food Standards Agency and Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs, and administrative and managerial support costs—is shown in the following table for 2003-04 to 2007-08.

Regional information for 1998-99 to 2002-03 is not readily available in the required format.

Gross costs for Meat Hygiene Service

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*[1]
North	16.5	16.3	17.0	18.4	17.7
Central	22.0	21.1	21.7	22.9	22.2
South and West	14.0	14.1	14.7	15.6	14.4
Wales[2]	10.5	10.8	11.7	11.1	9.8
Scotland[2]	9.2	9.4	10.2	11.0	10.3
Headquarters[3]	9.8	12.0	12.9	12.3	12.7
Total	82.0	83.7	88.2	91.3	87.1

[1] Costs in 2007-08 exclude transformation programme costs of £10.6 million.

[2] The Wales and Scotland regions both include parts of England.

[3] Headquarters costs include some costs that relate to the regions but which are not allocated. These include: pension costs, depreciation, relocation costs and redundancy payments.

Note:

The MHS regional management structure was disbanded between April and July 2008 as part of a transformation programme.

Third Sector Investment Programme

Frank Cook: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which organisations are still under consideration for funding under the Third Sector Investment Programme for 2009; [232234]

(2) which organisations were unsuccessful in their applications for the second stage of the Third Sector Investment Programme for 2009. [232235]

Phil Hope: The application process for the 2009-10 Third Sector Investment Programme is under way. As at noon on 31 October, 988 applications had been received. Of these, 254 had been put forward to the second stage of the application process and 696 had been declined. The relevant applicants have been notified in each case. 38 remain under consideration. A list of the organisations in each category has been placed in the Library.

Final decisions on funding are expected to be made in the new year.

Tomography

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 14 January 2008, *Official Report*, column 1034W, on tomography, if he will break down the figures for the provision of *(a)* computerised tomography scanners, *(b)* magnetic resonance imaging scanners and *(c)* linear accelerators by NHS trusts in each year since 2000. [231074]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not routinely collect this data centrally. However, information supplied by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) relating to the English national health service as at September 2008 has been placed in the Library. The document shows the number of computed tomography scanners, magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) scanners and linear accelerators (linacs.) provided to each NHS trust in the years 2000 to 2008.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Violence Against Women

9. **John Mann:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps the Government has taken in international forums to support measures to eliminate violence against women. [234536]

Gillian Merron: The Government condemns all forms of violence against women. We actively seek to eradicate it through changing attitudes internationally and on the ground. Notably, we worked to achieve consensus on a UN resolution which commits all member states to act to tackle violence against women. We have also agreed new European guidelines which mean that the EU will now lobby globally to combat violence against women.

Tibet

10. **Tim Loughton:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Chinese counterpart on the latest rounds of talks between the Chinese Government and Tibetan representatives; and whether the UK has offered to play any role in the talks. [234537]

Bill Rammell: The Government are not a party to the dialogue between the Chinese Government and the Dalai Lama's representatives, but we have made clear our close interest in their progress, including to the visiting Assistant Foreign Minister last week. We are concerned at reports suggesting lack of progress at the latest round. We urge both parties to work together to achieve a negotiated solution, within the framework of the Chinese constitution.

Middle East

11. **Mr. Burns:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of prospects for peace in the middle east; and if he will make a statement. [234538]

Bill Rammell: The Annapolis process has been a first step to restoring trust between the parties. We should seek to build on it to create a process which can deliver a broader peace, in which all exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities. This would be a true settlement between Israel and all Arab states. I hope it will be given new momentum from the beginning of the new Administration in the USA.

NATO-Russia Council

12. **Mr. Jenkin:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he next expects the NATO-Russia Council to convene; and what the agenda will be. [234539]

Bill Rammell: The NATO-Russia Council was suspended following the conflict in Georgia in August. When it restarts will depend on Russia's implementation of the Sarkozy/Medvedev peace agreements and progress in the Geneva process.

NATO-Russia dialogue and practical co-operation continues to cover a range of issues of common interest, including Afghanistan, counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation.

Anglo-American Relations

13. **Hugh Bayley:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what priorities he has identified for discussion with the incoming Administration in the US. [234540]

Gillian Merron: We will continue to work closely with the current Administration in the period up to inauguration. Thereafter, we look forward to engaging with President-Elect Obama and his Administration, maintaining our strong partnership with the US, in our continuing effort to address the problems threatening global prosperity today—of course, these include the world economy and reform of international financial institutions, key foreign policy issues (Iran, Middle East Peace Process, Afghanistan, Pakistan) and energy.

15. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he first plans to meet the President-Elect of the United States to discuss US-British relations; and if he will make a statement. [234542]

Caroline Flint: It is too early to get to make those sorts of plans. But my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister, other Cabinet colleagues and I look forward to close working relationships next year. This will of course involve face-to-face meetings in the US, UK and elsewhere. For now, our priority remains continuing our close working relationship with the current Administration.

Colombian Armed Forces

16. **Anne Moffat:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* accusations against and *(b)* suspensions of officers of the Colombian armed forces who have received UK training; and if he will make a statement. [234543]

Gillian Merron: We have received no information or evidence that officers who have received UK training have been involved in abuses.

My public statement of 30 October stressed the importance of the Colombian Government's decision to dismiss a number of officers for abuses recently attributed to Colombian Army officers, and for failures in exercising effective command. The resignation of the head of its armed forces is a further notable step.

It is vital that the Colombian Government remain determined to deal with abuses committed by their armed forces, which have no place in any society.

International Economic Situation

17. **Patrick Hall:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on a co-ordinated EU response to the international economic situation. [234544]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has regular and comprehensive discussions on the EU's response to the international economic situation with the Chancellor, as well as with other ministerial colleagues. The subject is frequently discussed at Cabinet meetings, and at meetings of the National Economic Council. My right hon. Friends the Prime Minister, the Foreign Secretary and the Chancellor all attended the October European Council, where discussion focused on this area.

Iran

18. **Peter Luff:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the human rights situation in Iran; and if he will make a statement. [234545]

Bill Rammell: We remain deeply concerned by Iran's deteriorating human rights record. We are particularly concerned by the increasing use of the death penalty including its continued use against juvenile offenders—the seventh confirmed juvenile execution this year took place in October; the draft penal code which would impose mandatory death penalty for apostasy; growing restrictions on freedom of expression and the treatment of minorities including the Baha'i community.

Iraq

19. **Mr. Whittingdale:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the human rights situation in Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [234546]

Bill Rammell: Since the removal of the Saddam regime, foundations have been laid in Iraq for the creation of a society based on full respect for human rights. Adoption of a constitution encompassing human rights principles was a key step forward. A number of areas of concern remain and we monitor the situation closely.

We have a regular dialogue with the Iraqi Government, including through the work done by my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clywd) in her role as the Prime Minister's Special Envoy for human rights in Iraq. Through this dialogue we aim to keep human rights high on the Iraqi Government's agenda.

Arab Peace Initiative

20. **Rosie Cooper:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the Israeli government on the Arab peace initiative. [234548]

Bill Rammell: The Arab Peace Initiative is important as it offers full normalisation of relations with Israel in exchange for withdrawal from occupied land. We are discussing with all our partners how this can help reinforce the Annapolis talks. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has discussed this in recent weeks with both the Israeli Foreign and Defence Ministers.

Nuclear Proliferation

21. **Dr. Julian Lewis:** To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make a statement on future negotiations on nuclear proliferation. [234549]

Bill Rammell: We are committed to a successful Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010, and will work to promote consensus around key measures to strengthen the treaty's three pillars. These include zero tolerance of proliferation; a clear forward plan on multilateral nuclear disarmament and supporting the right to the safe, secure and peaceful use of nuclear energy.

Small Arms

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with foreign counterparts on the effects of the sale of small arms; and if he will make a statement. [234541]

Bill Rammell: I have had no specific discussions limited to small arms. However, at the July 2008 UN Biennial Meeting of States that discussed implementation of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the UK highlighted how illicit trade in these armaments can threaten international peace and security. Separately, the UK is leading international efforts on securing agreement to an Arms Trade treaty that covers all conventional weapons, including small arms. In the run up to consideration of a UK sponsored ATT UN General Assembly resolution, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary recently spoke to a number of his counterparts to seek their support, including the US, Egypt, India and Pakistan.

Afghanistan

Mr. Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the political situation in Afghanistan; and if he will make a statement. [234550]

Bill Rammell: Afghanistan is one of the Government's top foreign policy priorities. Much is at stake and many challenges remain. But it is important to remember that in recent years we have seen significant political progress. Afghanistan now has a constitution, and a democratically elected President and Parliament. At the local and district level, and with the support of the international community, the Government of Afghanistan continues to work to improve governance structures. Presidential, parliamentary and provincial elections due to take place in 2009 and 2010 will give the Afghan people a further opportunity to shape their Government and express their will about Afghanistan's political future. We are working closely with the Government of Afghanistan and the international community to support Afghanistan's development.

China: Arrests

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations the UK Embassy in Beijing made to the Chinese Government following the arrest on 24 August 2008 of the right reverend Bishop Jia, the Roman Catholic Bishop of Zhengding Diocese in Hebei Province. [224041]

Bill Rammell: The UK has raised the case of Bishop Jia Zhiguo with the Chinese authorities at various times in the past, though we have not made representations over his most recent arrest. We have supported the inclusion of Bishop Jia in the list of cases of concern which the EU side will raise during the EU-China human rights dialogue at the end of November. We remain concerned both about Bishop Jia's specific case and about the wider issues it raises with regard to religious freedom in China.

India: Christianity

Mr. David Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Government of India on incidents of violence towards Christians in Orissa state. [230084]

Bill Rammell: We have expressed our concerns directly with the Indian Government and their representatives. On 1 October, my noble Friend the Minister of State for Africa, Asia and the UN, Lord Mark Malloch-Brown, raised the matter with the Indian high commissioner in London. On 17 October, he also discussed our concerns with Anand Sharma, Indian Minister of External Affairs, and Mohammed Quereshi, chairman of the Minorities Commission in New Delhi. The issue of religious freedom is due to be raised at the EU-India Human Rights Dialogue in New Delhi later this year.

Iraq: Christianity

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when the Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq last raised the subject of the persecution of Christians in Mosul with the government of Iraq; and if he will make a statement. [229870]

Bill Rammell: The Prime Minister's Special Envoy on Human Rights in Iraq, my right hon. Friend the Member for Cynon Valley (Ann Clwyd), raised the subject of the persecution of Christians and other minorities in Mosul in a meeting with the Iraqi Minister for Human Rights in Geneva on 15 October 2008. The Minister confirmed that her government was taking this issue very seriously and providing necessary assistance.

Israel: Overseas Residence

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Consulate in Jerusalem provides consular assistance to UK nationals living in Israeli settlements. [229926]

Bill Rammell: The British Consulate General in Jerusalem would provide assistance under our policy to a mono-British national living in an illegal settlement. We would not normally offer support to a dual national if he were within the state of his other nationality, or within an area controlled by that state. We may make an exception to this rule if, having looked at the circumstances of the case, we consider there is a special humanitarian reason for doing so.

Kosovo: Ethnic Groups

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when a Government representative last visited the displaced persons Roma sites in Kosovo; and what the result of their investigations was. [231958]

Caroline Flint: Department for International Development officials visited the Roma camps in Kosovo in April 2008. Senior representatives from our embassy in Pristina have attended a number of meetings, including one organised by the Roma community itself, and conferences about the situation of the Roma. The last such meeting was on 13 June 2008.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my right hon. Friend the Member for Rotherham (Mr. MacShane) on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 282W.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of the number of acts of terrorism which have been committed by proscribed armed Palestinian groups in *(a)* the West Bank and East Jerusalem and *(b)* Israel in the last 12 months; [229895]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of acts of violence committed by Palestinians against Israeli civilians in *(a)* the West Bank and East Jerusalem and *(b)* Israel in the last 12 months. [229898]

Bill Rammell: The vast majority of attacks against Israeli civilians in the past year have been rocket attacks fired from Gaza at towns in the south of Israel. The Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA) has stated that over 1,000 rockets and 1,000 mortars have been fired from Gaza towards Israel since the beginning of 2008. Three Israeli civilians have been killed. We welcome the ceasefire which since June has very significantly reduced the number of these attacks.

According to the Israeli MFA 14 other Israeli civilians have been killed in attacks by Palestinians in Israel since the beginning of this year. And according to the UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) two Israeli civilians have been killed in the West Bank and East Jerusalem during 2008.

We do not hold figures for all acts of violence since reporting is inconsistent. The responsibility for individual attacks is difficult to ascribe because rival groups often claim responsibility for individual attacks. However, we believe that the majority of rocket attacks and attacks on the area surrounding the Gaza Strip during 2008 as well as the suicide attack in Dimona were carried out by Hamas. Other significant organisations thought to have launched rockets are Palestinian Islamic Jihad and Al Aqsa Martyrs Brigade.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received reports from the Israeli government on acts of terrorism committed by Israeli settlers and settler organisations in *(a)* the West Bank and East Jerusalem and *(b)* Israel in the last 12 months. [229896]

Bill Rammell: We have received no such direct reports from the Israeli government. However we are deeply concerned at the rising number of violent attacks—principally against Palestinian civilians but also against Israeli military personnel—carried out by Israelis living in illegal settlements. These include reports of rocket attacks against Palestinian villages. The Israeli government, including the Prime Minister, has condemned the violence carried out by the settlers. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary raised this with Defence Minister Ehud Barak, on 20 October.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the number of acts of violence which have been committed by Israeli military personnel against Palestinian civilians in *(a)* the West Bank and East Jerusalem and *(b)* Israel in the last 12 months. [229897]

Bill Rammell: We have not made an estimate of the total number of acts of violence committed by Israeli military personnel against Palestinian civilians. The UN Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) records that between July 2007 and July 2008, 76 Palestinians were killed and 1,200 Palestinians were injured in the West Bank and East Jerusalem as a result of incidents directly related to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the proposal made by the Australian

Government to the United Nations General Assembly First Committee on 15 October 2008 on the global non-proliferation regime in the period running up to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference in 2010. [229842]

Bill Rammell: The United Kingdom shares Australia's commitment to strengthening the non-proliferation treaty (NPT) and to a successful NPT Review Conference in 2010. The Prime Minister has written to Prime Minister Rudd welcoming the establishment of the International Commission on Nuclear Non-Proliferation and Disarmament and the appointment of Baroness Williams of Crosby as a Commissioner. We share the objective of making substantive progress on nuclear non-proliferation, disarmament and peaceful uses of nuclear energy.

Occupied Territories: Housing

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the position of Palestinians seeking to recover their property inside illegal Israeli settlements from UK residents and companies. [229920]

Bill Rammell: We have had no such discussions.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the British Consulate in Jerusalem has provided guidance to UK nationals living in Israeli settlements in the Palestinian territories about the risk attached to legal title of property therein. [229925]

Bill Rammell: We have not provided any such advice. We would discourage any British national from purchasing property in a settlement. We consider all settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territories to be illegal under international law and a serious obstacle to peace. Potential purchasers should also consider that a future peace agreement could have consequences for property they purchase in the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

Overseas Residence: Death

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what records his Department holds of the number of UK nationals who died overseas in each year since 1990, broken down by country of death. [230066]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is extensive. I have written to the hon. Member with an answer to his question, and arranged for a copy of my letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Palestinians: EU External Trade

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will take steps to ensure the Israeli government allows the EU-Palestinian Interim Association Agreement to operate in full. [229915]

Bill Rammell: We continue to call both unilaterally and through the EU on the Israeli government to fully recognise and facilitate the implementation of the EU-PLO Interim Association Agreement.

Sudan: Peace Negotiations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of Sudan on progress towards the disarmament of militia and other government-affiliated forces in Darfur; and if he will make a statement. [232091]

Gillian Merron: The Government of Sudan committed under the Darfur Peace Agreement (DPA) in 2005 to disarm militia and other government-affiliated forces in Darfur. Not all parties to the conflict signed the DPA and due to the ongoing conflict the DPA has not been fully implemented. We are pressing the Government of Sudan to uphold their commitments under the DPA and to engage fully in the ongoing Darfur peace process. On 27 September, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary met Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha in New York to discuss the Darfur peace process, to urge progress on co-operation with the International Criminal Court, and allow the full deployment of the UN-African Union Peacekeeping Mission (UNAMID) for full humanitarian access, and to work for wider political reform in Sudan, including free and fair elections in 2009.

Sudan: Politics and Government

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made in the multi-party Sudan People's Initiative since its announcement in July 2008; and what discussions officials in his Department have had with the government of Sudan regarding this initiative. [232093]

Gillian Merron: The Sudan People's Initiative (SPI) on Darfur was launched in Khartoum on 16 October 2008 and followed with further discussions in Kenana on 18 October. Officials from our embassy in Khartoum attended these events and continue to discuss the ongoing process with all the parties. Michael O'Neill, UK Special Representative for Sudan, discussed the prospects for the initiative in Khartoum on 20 October. We welcome all constructive initiatives towards peace in Darfur under the overall leadership of the UN-African Union Chief Mediator for Darfur, Djibril Bassolé.

Sudan: War Crimes

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the government of Sudan on the arrest of Ali Kushayb; and if he will make a statement. [232092]

Gillian Merron: We are aware of reports that Ali Kushayb has been arrested in Sudan and could be tried by the Government of Sudan. We continue to call on the Government of Sudan to co-operate fully with the International Criminal Court over the two existing arrest warrants, which includes one for Kushayb. We hope Kushayb's arrest is a step towards this. There can be no impunity for crimes committed in Darfur.

Telephones

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many telephone lines serviced his private office at the end of each of the last five financial years; and how many serviced the office on 22 July 2008. [222600]

Gillian Merron: As at 22 July 2008, there were 22 telephone lines recorded in use, covering the Foreign Secretary, Private Secretary, clerical staff, special advisers and fax machines. Information is not available for the last five years.

USA: Capital Punishment

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will inform the incoming President of the United States of the Government's opposition to the death penalty. [229855]

Bill Rammell: The UK opposes the death penalty in all circumstances, and the US is aware of our stance. The UK raises our opposition to the death penalty in the US with the appropriate authorities in both bilateral dialogue and through the EU. We will continue this policy with any future Administrations until the practice of capital punishment is abolished throughout the United States of America.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many children have been added to the adoption register in each year since its creation; [234027]

(2) how many *(a)* couples and *(b)* single people approved to adopt have been added to the adoption register in each year since its creation. [234028]

Beverley Hughes: I refer the hon. Member to the reply given on 5 November, 2008 *Official Report*, column 579W.

Children in Care: Crime

Mr. Kidney: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he has taken to assist local authorities in preventing children in their care becoming involved in crime. [234040]

Beverley Hughes: The vast majority of looked after children do not commit offences. However we recognise that as a group they are more likely to be subject to a final reprimand or warning or convicted of a crime than other children. To support local authorities as responsible corporate parents to do all they can to prevent looked after children becoming involved in crime, we have issued a range of materials. In 2005 the Government funded the National Association for the Care and Resettlement of Offenders (NACRO) to produce a handbook for local authorities on reducing offending by looked after children with practical examples setting out how authorities might work with partner agencies to reduce offending by looked after children. We also supported the National Children's Bureau to research and publish "Tell Them Not to Forget About Us"—a guide to practice with looked after children in custody. A copy of this was sent to every director of Children's Services and to every youth offending team manager.

Following our White Paper "Care Matters" and the Children and Young Persons Bill receiving Royal Assent, we will be revising guidance to local authorities which will include information about local authority responsibilities for preventing offending by looked after children and, about their responsibilities for establishing the necessary relationships with youth justice professionals so that, when looked after children do offend, plans are put in place to support the child to prevent re-offending.

Children: Databases

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer of 4 March 2008, *Official Report*, column 482W, on children: databases, whether details of children of hon. Members are to be *(a)* excluded from and *(b)* shielded on Contact Point; and if he will make a statement. [234767]

Beverley Hughes: The Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007 specify that Contact Point will hold basic identifying information on every child and each 'participating young person', ordinarily resident in England.

Records of some children, whose circumstances may mean that they or others, are at increased risk of harm (for example, those fleeing domestic violence), may be subject to 'shielding', whereby any details which could give an indication of their whereabouts, will be hidden from users' view. The decision to shield will be taken on a case-by-case basis and will be based on the level of threat posed if their whereabouts were to become known. Such a decision can only be undertaken by a local authority which is under a duty to consider the views of the person to whom the record relates, the views of their parent or carer, and of any schedule 4 or schedule 5 body (as specified by the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007), involved with the child or young person.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233821]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: In the Department any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the Department's policy and guidance.

Staff below the senior civil service (96 per cent.) can work to a flexi-time agreement and local records are kept of hours worked.

15 per cent. of all staff work part-time but information is not held centrally on how many job share and information could be obtained at disproportionate cost.

There are currently five employees who have a formal home-working contract and work more than four hours a week from home. Over 60 per cent. of employees do have broadband access to the Department's systems through authorised encryption and agree home working arrangements with their line managers. Records of the hours worked each week are held locally and could be aggregated only at disproportionate cost.

Education

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many pupils were placed in alternative provision in each of the last 10 years. [232410]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Alternative provision covers all school age pupils attending a school not maintained by an authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and Pupil Referral Units, under arrangements made by the authority.

In addition pupils are referred to alternative provision under arrangements by schools but we do not collect data on these numbers.

The information on pupils in Pupil Referral Units and in alternative provision as at January of each year is shown in the following table. Many pupils stay only a short time in Pupil Referral Units or other alternative provision and so the total annual number of pupils who receive some alternative provision is higher, but we do not collect this information.

Number of pupils in alternative provision[1], *position as at January 1999 to 2008*

	Number of pupils in pupil referral units	*Number of pupils in alternative provision*[2]
England		
1999	8,260	27,260
2000	8,480	28,360
2001	9,290	33,600
2002	9,960	31,980
2003	12,010	33,150
2004	13,040	32,630
2005	14,470	30,570
2006	15,240	25,250
2007	15,160	23,850
2008	16,095	20,900

[1] Excludes dually registered pupils.

[2] Alternative provision covers all school age pupils attending a school not maintained by an authority for whom the authority is paying full tuition fees, or educated otherwise than in schools and Pupil Referral Units, under arrangements made by the authority.

Note:

Pupil numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census and Form 8B

Education: Young Offender Institutions

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on the education facilities available for young offenders in young offender institutions; and if he will make a statement. [233739]

Beverley Hughes: The Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Ministry of Justice are jointly responsible for policy on education for young offenders. Both Departments worked with the Home Office to produce the Youth Crime Action Plan (July 2008), which included considering the issues affecting education for young offenders and developing commitments to bring improvements. The preparation of this strategy included a range of trilateral discussions between Secretaries of State and Ministers, and these discussions will continue as the Action Plan is implemented.

Foster Care

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what guidance his Department provides to social workers regarding foster carers and smacking; [232615]

(2) what guidance his Department has issued to social workers and local authorities on foster carers and smacking. [234029]

Beverley Hughes: Regulations require that fostering service providers, including local authorities, must take all reasonable steps to ensure that no form of corporal punishment is used on any child placed with a foster parent. Foster carers must enter into a foster care agreement confirming that they will not administer corporal punishment to a child placed with them.

National minimum standards for fostering services state that fostering service providers should give foster carers clear, written information that corporal punishment is not acceptable and that this includes smacking, slapping, shaking and all other humiliating forms of treatment or punishment.

Health Education: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department's review of drug and alcohol education will *(a)* start and *(b)* be completed; who will carry it out; and what it will cost. [234566]

Beverley Hughes: The Department's review of the effectiveness of delivery arrangements for all drugs education (including alcohol) began in January 2008. The review's findings and recommendations and the Government's response were published on 23 October 2008. The report and the response can be found at:

http://www.teachernet.gov.uk/docbank/index.cfm?id=13032

The review was conducted by an independent advisory group of experts, whose details are given in the report. Advisory group members gave their time freely, with the only cost for the review being that travel expenses were reimbursed, this came to a total of £3,659.

Local Safeguarding Children Boards: Hearing Impaired

John Barrett: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many local children's safeguarding boards have undertaken a review of their local procedures, policies and training programmes to ensure that the needs of deaf children are recognised and met, as recommended by the Department of Health's 2005 report Mental Health and Deafness: Towards Equity and Access. [232163]

Beverley Hughes: Local Safeguarding Children Boards (LSCBs) coordinate local work to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and ensure the effectiveness of that work. This includes ensuring that deaf children are effectively safeguarded and supported. Government have encouraged LSCBs to engage widely within their communities to build a full picture of safeguarding priorities to inform the activity of their member organisations and partners.

In February 2006 the DCSF issued practice guidance for LSCBs on Safeguarding Disabled Children which specifically addressed the needs of deaf children. The practice guidance is being updated and will be published in spring next year. We have also encouraged those with specific expertise in this area to work with the LSCBs, including the National Deaf Children's Society, the NSPCC, the British Society for Mental Health and Deafness and the UK Council on Deafness.

In close collaboration with local authority and other partners, the DCSF is also undertaking a stocktake of LSCBs to develop recommendations that will help all LSCBs perform at the level of the best. The stocktake will report in spring 2009.

Nurseries: Admissions

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average occupancy rate of *(a)* Sure Start children's centre nurseries, *(b)* maintained nurseries and *(c)* private, voluntary and independent nurseries was in (i) England, (ii) each region and (iii) each local authority area in each of the last five years. [234133]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Childcare and Early Years Providers Survey collects information on occupancy rates in child care and early years providers.

Table 1 shows the national occupancy rates for different types of child care providers from 2005 to 2007. Data are not available for earlier years or for all types of providers in 2005.

Table 1: Occupancy rates for England from 2005 to 2007

Percentage

	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Full day care	83	85	82
Full day care in children's centres	n/a	82	83
Sessional	89	89	87
After school clubs	n/a	79	75
Holiday clubs	n/a	71	70
Child minders	71	76	71
Nursery schools	n/a	93	95
Primary schools with nursery and reception classes	n/a	90	89
Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes	n/a	85	86

Table 2 shows the regional occupancy rates for different types of child care providers for 2007. Data for earlier years are not available in the format requested.

Table 2: Regional occupancy rates for 2007

Percentage

	Full day care	*Full day care in children's centres*	*Sessional*	*After school*	*Holiday*	*Child minders*	*Nursery schools*	*Primary schools with nursery and reception classes*	*Primary schools with reception but no nursery classes*
East Midlands	80	77	82	67	65	65	92	87	81
East of England	84	85	86	73	66	72	94	86	83
London	78	82	87	77	70	61	96	93	95
North East[1]	[2]81	[2]73	[2]85	[2]71	[2]67	[2]75	96	n/a	79
Yorkshire and Humber	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	[2]—	94	n/a	84
North West	83	83	88	72	65	73	91	n/a	82
South East	83	79	88	71	73	69	97	90	87
South West	81	83	85	69	60	75	99	88	81
West Midlands	83	77	84	73	66	73	96	88	82

[1] Data for child care providers are not separately available for the North East and Yorkshire and Humberside regions.

[2] Indicates brace.

Note:

Data are not available for primary schools with nursery and reception classes in the North East and North West regions as an insufficient number of interviews were achieved in these areas. Data are also not available for primary schools with nursery and reception classes in Yorkshire and Humberside as this region was grouped with the North East and North West to ensure that national figures were representative.

Data on occupancy rates are not available at a local authority level.

Parents: Advisory Services

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many calls there have been to the Parent Know How helpline in each month since it was established; what the cost of the helpline has been; and if he will make a statement. [233610]

Beverley Hughes: The Parent Know How programme is funding seven third sector organisations to deliver helplines for parents. The funding for these helplines commenced on 1 April 2008. Management data, including the number of calls taken by the helplines, are collected quarterly. In the first quarter (April to June) 34,936 calls were taken, in the second quarter (July to September) 31,399 calls were taken. The third sector organisations are funded by grants to deliver the helpline services. The total cost in 2008-09 is £3.4 million.

Pupil Exclusions: Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what percentage of young men in young offender institutions have previously been excluded from school. [234218]

Beverley Hughes: This information is not collected centrally. However, a report from Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Prisons in 2004 'Juveniles in Custody' stated that 83 per cent. of boys had been excluded from school. The research concentrated on young people under the age of 18 within YOIs.

Also, the Ministry of Justice has recently published research 'The problems and needs of newly sentenced prisoners: results from a national survey' which surveyed 1,457 newly sentenced prisoners, of which 181 were young offenders aged 18 to 20. 52 per cent. of young offenders participating in the survey said they had been permanently excluded from school.

Pupils: Languages

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families according to the most recent school census, how many pupils in care had a language other than English as their first language. [234025]

Beverley Hughes: The most recent census data relates to January 2008. The information requested from this census is shown in the table.

The census shows 34,390 pupils aged five to 19 attending primary, secondary and special schools who are classed as being in care as at January 2008. Data published by the Department as SFR 23/2008: Children looked after in England (including adoption and care leavers) year ending 31 March 2008, shows 47,600 children aged between five and 19 as being looked after as at 31 March 2008. The school census does not cover all looked after children; information is not collected for pupils in alternative provision, including pupil referral units, FE colleges, voluntary provision and those not in education or training. These differences in coverage will explain the different counts to an extent, but it is possible that the school census undercounts the number of looked after children in primary, secondary and special schools.

Primary, secondary and special schools[1,2,3]—number and percentage of pupils classified as being in care by their first language[4]: England as at January 2008

	Pupils whose first language is classified as:					
	English		Other than English		Unclassified	
	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage	Number of pupils	Percentage
Pupils in care[5]	31,690	92.2	2,560	7.4	140	0.4
All pupils[6]	5,795,430	87.2	824,490	12.4	23,020	0.3

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[2] Includes CTCs and academies.
[3] Includes both maintained and non-maintained special schools, excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Pupils of compulsory school age and over were classified by first language.
[5] The number of pupils in care collected via the school census is known to be under-reported.
[6] Headcount of pupils, including dual registrations, aged between five and 19 as at 31 August 2007.

Note:
Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
School Census

Pupils: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Jeremy Browne: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the average funding per primary school pupil was in *(a)* England and *(b)* Somerset in (i) 1996-97 and (ii) 2007-08; and what real term change this represented. [234690]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The per pupil revenue funding figures for primary schools pupils and for all funded pupils for England and Somerset local authority in 1997-98 and 2005-06 are as follows. Figures for 1996-97 are not available on a comparison basis. These figures are in real terms:

		England	Somerset
Primary pupils (3-10 years)	1997-98	2,615	2,469
	2005-06	3,999	3,672
	Percentage increase from 1997-98 to 2005-06	52.9	48.7
All pupils (3-19 years)	1997-98	3,185	2,974
	2005-06	4,485	4,100
	Percentage increase from 1997-98 to 2005-06	40.8	37.9

The revenue per pupil figures shown in the following table are taken from the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) which was introduced in April 2006. They are not comparable with those for the years 1997-98 to 2005-06 because the introduction of the DSG in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded.

The 1997-98 to 2005-06 figures are based on Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement, plus various grants. This was an assessment of what local authorities needed to fund education rather than what they spent. The DSG is based largely on an authority's previous spending. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS. EFS comprised a schools block and an LEA block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through DCLG's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable.

To provide a comparison for 2006-07 DSG, the Department have isolated the schools block equivalent funding in 2005-06; as described above this does not represent the totality of 'education' funding in that year. The per pupil revenue funding figures for years 2005-06 to 2008-09 for England and Somerset local authority are provided in the following table. As the DSG is a mechanism for distributing funding, a split between primary and secondary schools is not available. The following figures are for all funded pupils aged 3-19 and are in real terms:

		England	*Somerset*
All pupils (3-19 years)	2005-06 DSG baseline plus grants	4,233	3,890
	2008-09 DSG plus grants	4,695	4,221
	Percentage increase from 2005-06 to 2008-09	10.9	8.5

Note:
Price Base: Real terms at 2007-08 prices, based on GDP deflators as at 30 September 2008.

Schools: Choice Advisers

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many choice advisers are employed by each local authority; and if he will make a statement. [234752]

Beverley Hughes: The following table shows the number of Choice Advisers in each local authority as at 1 September 2008, based on information provided voluntarily by local authorities to CAS and QAN. The table shows the total number of advisers employed in each local authority, not full-time equivalents.

Local authorities have the flexibility to make Choice Advice available in the way which best meets local needs. Some may employ only one Choice Adviser while others may find they need more than one. Similarly, some may employ full-time Choice Advisers while others may employ Choice Advisers on a seasonal basis.

	Number of Choice Advisers
Barking and Dagenham	1
Barnet	2
Barnsley	1
Bath and NE Somerset	1
Bedfordshire	1
Bexley	1
Birmingham	4
Blackburn with Darwen	1
Blackpool	1
Bolton	1
Bournemouth	3
Bradford	1
Brent	8
Brighton and Hove	1
Bristol	1
Bromley	3
Buckinghamshire	2
Bury	1
Calderdale	1
Cambridgeshire	1
Camden	2
Cheshire	4
City Of London	1
Cornwall	8
Coventry	1
Croydon	1
Cumbria	1
Darlington	1
Derby City	3
Derbyshire	3
Devon	6
Doncaster	2
Dorset	2
Dudley	
Durham	
Ealing	
East Riding of Yorkshire	
East Sussex	6
Enfield	
Gateshead	
Gloucestershire	
Greenwich	
Hackney	
Halton	
Hammersmith and Fulham	
Hampshire	
Haringey	
Harrow	3
Hartlepool	
Havering	
Herefordshire	3
Hillingdon	
Isle of Wight	
Islington	2
Kensington and Chelsea	
Kent	3
Kingston upon Hull	
Kingston upon Thames	1
Kirklees	3
Knowsley	1
Lambeth	1
Lancashire	2
Leeds	2
Leicestershire	2
Lewisham	2
Lincolnshire	2
Liverpool	1

	Number of Choice Advisers
Luton	1
Manchester	3
Medway	1
Merton	1
Middlesbrough	1
Milton Keynes	1
Newcastle upon Tyne	1
Newham	1
Norfolk	2
North East Lincolnshire	1
North Lincolnshire	1
North Somerset	3
North Tyneside	1
North Yorkshire	2
Northamptonshire	2
Northumberland	1
Nottingham City	1
Nottinghamshire	16
Oldham	1
Oxfordshire	2
Peterborough	1
Plymouth	2
Poole	2
Reading	1
Redbridge	2
Redcar and Cleveland	1
Richmond upon Thames	7
Rochdale	1
Rotherham	2
Rutland	1
Salford	1
Sandwell	1
Sefton	1
Sheffield	2
Shropshire	2
Slough	1
Solihull	2
Somerset	1
South Gloucestershire	3
Southend	1
Southwark	1
St Helens	2
Staffordshire	1
Stockport	1
Stockton on Tees	1
Stoke on Trent	1
Suffolk	3
Sunderland	1
Surrey	2
Sutton	2
Swindon	1
Tameside	1
Telford and Wrekin	1
Thurrock	1
Torbay	1
Tower Hamlets	4
Trafford	5
Wakefield	1
Wandsworth	1
Warrington	1
Warwickshire	1
West Berkshire	4
West Sussex	1
Westminster	1
Wigan	1
Wiltshire	2
Windsor and Maidenhead	1
Wirral	2
Wokingham	1
Wolverhampton	1
Worcestershire	1
York	1

Special Educational Needs

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on informing parents of children with complex educational and specialist health needs of public and charitable provision that is available for such children nationally and locally. [232459]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Under section 12 of the Childcare Act 2006 local authorities (LAs) are required to deliver information, advice and guidance on child care and other local services for parents of children and young people up to age 20.

The information which must be prescribed by local authorities has been prescribed in the Childcare Act 2006 (Provision of Information to Parents) (England) Regulations 2007 ("the regulations"). These regulations require LAs to provide information about whether particular child care is suitable for disabled children, and about services, facilities and publication which may be of particular benefit to disabled children, young people or their parents.

Nationally, the Early Support Programme is the Government's recommended family-centred approach for delivering integrated services for young disabled children, which includes information resources for parents on how to work with local professionals to understand and secure the support their child needs. In addition, the Department funds Contact-a-Family directly and through the Parent Know How programme to provide information to parents of disabled children, including on the state and charitable provision available.

Specialised Diplomas: Business

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the procedures are for ensuring compliance with child protection requirements within businesses applying to participate in joint ventures offering diploma courses. [230058]

Beverley Hughes: Some staff of businesses which deliver parts of diploma courses, including work experience placements, may be required by schools or colleges attended by the learners concerned, or by education business brokers on their behalf, to have Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks.

CRB checks happen in certain circumstances where it is judged by those responsible for organising the learning or placement that a young person might be at risk of experiencing inappropriate behaviours, for example where they are vulnerable, or are working with someone on a one-to-one basis or over an extended period of time. Guidance for schools, colleges and businesses can be found in 'Safeguarding Children and Safer Recruitment in Education'.

Specialised Diplomas: Vetting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) and *(b)* enhanced CRB checks which will be required on the members of staff of businesses offering part of a 14 to 19 diploma. [232329]

Beverley Hughes: CRB and Enhanced CRB checks required by members of staff of businesses offering part of a 14 to 19 diploma are expected to be small in number since the majority of diploma principal learning and additional specialist learning will take place in schools, colleges and training providers. Teachers, lecturers and trainers in these settings will have already been CRB checked.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's targets for the number of people entering initial teacher training for each subject by *(a)* undergraduate, *(b)* post-graduate certificate of education and *(c)* other graduate teacher training routes were in each of the last five years. [233510]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the targets set for recruitment to mainstream Initial Teacher Training (ITT) for primary courses and secondary courses by subject for each academic year between 2004/05 and 2008/09. The Department does not set targets for each route into ITT.

Only the 2008/09 targets include Employment Based Routes Initial Teacher Training (EBITT) courses. Prior to 2008/09 the Department did not set targets for EBITT, although recruitment data for EBITT courses was still taken into account in projecting the future required numbers of recruits and successful completers on each type of programme and by subject to assist in determining the targets required for mainstream ITT targets.

Initial teacher training places[1], academic years: 2004/05 to 2008/09, coverage: England

	2004/05	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*
Primary	16,300	15,800	15,300	14,800	17,460
Secondary[1]	19,500	18,500	17,500	16,500	19,385
Of which:					
Art	880	800	700	600	670
Citizenship	250	240	230	220	265
Economics, Social Sciences, Classics, Other subjects	300	290	240	185	325
English (including Drama)	2,350	2,200	2,040	1,920	2,670
Geography	935	925	850	770	770
History	910	810	700	600	685
Mathematics	2,350	2,350	2,350	2,350	2,735
Modern foreign languages	2,050	1,900	1,790	1,670	1,670
Music	725	690	640	600	690
Physical Education	1,500	1,450	1,310	1,180	1,570
Religious Education	730	730	695	665	740
Science	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,225	3,615
Technology, of which:	2,895	2,890	2,730	2,515	2,980
Business Studies	760	730	680	600	590
Design and Technology	1,085	1,060	1,010	930	1,195
Information and communications technology	1,050	1,100	1,040	985	1,195
Vocational subjects[2]	400	—	—	—	—
Margin of flexibility/secondary reserve[3]	—	—	—	—	—
Primary and secondary	35,800	34,300	32,800	31,300	36,845

[1] Targets prior to 2008/09 include School Centred ITT but excludes Employment Based Routes ITT (EBITT). Targets for 2008/08 onwards include EBITT, but exclude Teach First.

[2] Places for vocational subjects in 2006/07 are included with the allocation for related academic subject: Science includes places for applied science, design and technology includes both manufacturing and engineering, ICT includes applied ICT, business studies includes applied business, geography includes leisure and tourism, art includes applied art and other subjects includes health and social care and subjects relating to the new diploma subjects.

In 2004/05 places for vocational subjects were shown separately.

In 2003/04 the margin of flexibility included places for a vocational subjects pilot.

[3] The margin of flexibility/secondary reserve constituted places that the TDA could allocate to any secondary subject, to support providers whose baselines would otherwise be below economic levels: to ensure the appropriate denominational balance; and to help providers with a high proportion of places in shortage subjects and who therefore had particular uncertainty of income.

Source:
OGSF

These data were published as part of the Statistical First Release: School Workforce in England (29/2007) and is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/index.shtml

Young Offenders: Education

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what educational provision is in force for young people under 18 years remanded in custody at young offender institutions prior to court disposal. [234142]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Education, training and personal development activities for all young people in custody are delivered as part of a package of placement services funded by the Youth Justice Board (YJB) and prescribed by a joint YJB/DCSF/MOJ/Learning and Skills Council specification "The Offender Learning Journey for Juveniles". All young people in custody should receive full-time education and personal development activities, which are based on the national curriculum but with flexibilities to take account of prior learning and other needs such as substance misuse, and behaviour management needs etc which young people may have. The YJB sets requirements for education in Young Offender Institutions (YOIs) and require that 90 per cent. of young people receive 25 hours or more education, training and personal development activity per week.

Young People: Antisocial Behaviour

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what criteria his Department will use to assess the effectiveness of intensive intervention projects. [234730]

Beverley Hughes: The primary objective of intensive intervention projects is to improve outcomes for some of the most vulnerable and challenging young people in society—and to improve outcomes for the communities in which they live. We specifically expect the projects to:

Significantly reduce antisocial behaviour;

Help reduce youth crime;

Improve participation in education and training;

Tackle substance misuse;

Reduce youth homelessness.

Projects are expected to take referrals from across the whole local authority area. The criteria for referral to the project should draw on the local assessment of young people's needs which underpins targeted youth support reforms. The target group should include those young people identified as being:

Involved in crime or antisocial behaviour;

Involved in, or at risk, of substance abuse;

Persistent absentees or excluded from school or not in employment education or training (NEET);

Presenting as homeless or at risk of homelessness.

As a guide we would expect young people engaged with the project to also experience a range of the risk factors including:

At risk of teenage pregnancy;

Young teenage parents;

Poor family support and support networks;

Family or friend involvement in gangs or with criminal convictions;

Poor aspirations/poor emotional social or coping skills;

Learning difficulties and disabilities;

Children of parents with substance misuse problems;

Low educational attainment/attendance;

Living in a deprived neighbourhood and/or poverty.

An independent national evaluation of the projects will be conducted.

Part of this national evaluation is likely to entail collection of data on young people who are not receiving intervention from intensive intervention projects to act as a control group for the research.

In addition the Youth Task Force will undertake regular monitoring. This will include support offered, enforcement action taken and the outcomes for young people. It will involve a quarterly return to YTF of aggregate data about young people. Outcome monitoring will be based on the Youth PSA indicators but will also encompass measures of criminal and antisocial behaviour and homelessness.

Young People: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department's review of local area substance misuse treatment plans for young people *(a)* began and *(b)* will be completed; who is carrying out the review; and what the cost of the review will be. [234565]

Beverley Hughes: The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse related harm among young people, including harm arising from the misuse of drugs, alcohol and volatile substances. Specialist treatment for those young people who develop substance misuse problems is a vital part of our approach, and we are ensuring that effective treatment is available in all areas of England for under 18s who are in need . This is supported by £24.7 million of Government funding in 2008-09. Over 21,000 young people benefited from this help in 2007-08.

The Department has agreed a memorandum of understanding with the National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse (NTA) to continue to improve the quality and accessibility of specialist treatment for under 18s. The process for developing local area substance misuse treatment plans for young people for 2009-10 began in summer 2008, with the NTA issuing guidance to all areas. All formalised treatment plans will have been reviewed and agreed with local areas by March 2009 and then published on the NTA's website in June 2009. In addition, all areas' treatment systems for young people are reviewed by the NTA, along with the regional Government office and other partners, on a six monthly basis. The results of this review will be reported back to my Department in March 2009. This work is part of the NTA's core role as detailed in their business plan and is therefore funded by NTA.

Young People: Unemployment

Joan Ryan: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many young people were not in education, employment or training in Enfield North constituency *(a)* in 1997 and *(b)* at the latest date for which figures are available. [233094]

Beverley Hughes: The Department publishes annual estimates of the number of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET) in England. These estimates cannot be disaggregated to local authority or constituency level.

However, we can use information collected by the Connexions Service to estimate the number and proportion of young people NEET at local authority level. The 2007 estimate for the London borough of Enfield is that 670 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET (7.2 per cent. of the 16 to 18-year-old population). The first local authority level data were made available in 2005, when an estimated 840 16 to 18-year-olds were NEET (8.3 per cent. of the 16 to 18-year-old population). Constituency level data are not available.

TREASURY

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [illegible]

Angela Eagle: The Treasury does not use Airwave handsets and has no plans to use them in the future.

Bank Services

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Bank of England and *(c)* the Financial Services Authority first (a) was informed of and (b) reported on the financial vulnerability of Icelandic banking institutions. [228197]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 17 October 2008]:* The FSA intensified its supervision of all retail deposit-taking by Icelandic banks (including through increased contact with firms, more frequent visits and enhanced reporting requirements) from the beginning of 2008. As the economic situation deteriorated during the year and particularly since September the FSA has worked increasingly intensively with the banks concerned.

As the memorandum of understanding between HM Treasury, the Bank of England and the FSA sets out, the FSA informs the Bank of England and HM Treasury of its concerns on a regular basis.

Betting: Regulation

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent representations he has received in support of moving regulation of spread betting from the Financial Services Authority to the Gambling Commission. [illegible]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such representations.

Borrowing: Local Authorities

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many applications by local authorities to borrow from the Public Works Loan Board have been rejected in the last three years; and for what reasons in each case. [235096]

Angela Eagle: The Public Works Loan Board does not reject loan applications made within its published lending terms.

Cheques

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to expedite the administration of cheques on private accounts in the banks recapitalised from public funds. [232755]

Ian Pearson: As part of their investment, the Government have agreed a range of commitments with banks accessing the recapitalisation scheme.

Decisions on the terms of specific products are commercial decisions for the individual institutions.

Council Tax: Wales

Adam Price: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what balancing adjustment was applied to the Welsh Assembly Government's departmental expenditure limits in relation to council tax benefit for each year since 1999. [234328]

Yvette Cooper: The following adjustments have been made to the Welsh Assembly Government departmental expenditure limit since 1999 in respect of council tax benefit adjustments:

	£
2001-02	-560,000
2003-04	+1,957,000
2006-07	+16,000,000

The 2006-07 adjustment also took account of adjustments pertaining to 2004-05 and 2005-06.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233832]

Angela Eagle: HM Treasury employs 5 per cent. of staff on part-time contracts. Some of these people are currently in job share arrangements. HM Treasury also offers other flexible working arrangements such as compressed hours. These are agreed directly between managers and staff in line and are therefore not recorded centrally. We do not keep central records of those who work from home.

EU External Trade: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 883-4W, on EU external trade: Israel, if he will list the *(a)* settlements involved, *(b)* import/export company involved and *(c)* UK retailer to whom the consignments were sent in each case; and whether full import duty was paid on those consignments. [234371]

Mr. Timms: The identities of the settlements and UK retailers involved cannot be disclosed for reasons of commercial confidentiality. HMRC does publish the names and addresses of importers of non-EU goods against eight digit commodity codes except where to do so might compromise the business activities of the companies or individuals involved.

Requests for importers' details specifying the eight digit commodity code or codes should be sent to:

HMRC
Trade Statistics,
3rd Floor Central,
Alexander House,
21 Victoria Avenue,
Southend on Sea,
Essex, SS99 1AA.

Excise Duties: Motor Vehicles

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the number of new vehicles which will be purchased and registered in each of the new vehicle excise duty bands in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13 and *(d)* 2014-15; [234260]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the number of vehicles which will be in each of the new vehicle excise duty bands that were *(a)* purchased prior to 2001, *(b)* purchased prior to 2008-09 and *(c)* purchased after 2008-09 in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13 and (iv) 2014-15. [234261]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1950-51W and 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 724W. Pre-2001 cars are not affected by the structural reforms to carbon dioxide based emissions rates and bandings. They will remain in two bands according to engine size. Vehicle Excise Duty (VED) is administered on vehicle registration rather than the time of purchase.

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will link vehicle excise duty for motorcycles to engine emissions on a similar basis as for cars. [234512]

Angela Eagle: No, carbon dioxide based Vehicle Excise Duty for cars rests on data produced through the European-wide system of vehicle type approval. This system does not produce carbon dioxide data for motorcycles.

Government Departments: Procurement

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will list the approved suppliers that are in use by all Government Departments under the terms set out in the Official Journal of the European Union. [234268]

Angela Eagle: An A-Z list of all suppliers with an agreement with OGCbuying.solutions is available at:

http://online.ogcbuyingsolutions.gov.uk/suppliers/index.html

Information relating to suppliers used by other Government Departments is not held centrally.

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer under what circumstances procurement takes place by Government Departments from bodies other than those approved within the latest Catalist Framework. [234270]

Angela Eagle: Government Departments are responsible for their own purchasing decisions which will be based on value for money and usually achieved through competition.

They are encouraged to use existing collaborative procurement deals, where they provide value for money, such as those offered by the Catalist Framework.

Government Departments: Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer which *(a)* Government departments, *(b)* agencies and *(c)* non-departmental public bodies have property which comprises part of the Government's civil estate. [233373]

Angela Eagle: The Government Departments, which include their agencies and non-departmental public bodies, are as follows:

Attorney-General's Office
British Council
Cabinet Office
Central Office of Information
Charity Commission
Communities and Local Government
Crown Prosecution Service
Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform
Department for Children, Schools and Families
Department for Culture, Media and Sport
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs
Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills
Department for International Development
Department for Transport
Department for Work and Pensions
Department of Health
Export Credit Guarantee Department
Food Standards Agency
Foreign and Commonwealth Office
Forestry Commission
Government Actuary's Department
Health and Safety Executive
HM Courts Service
HM Revenue and Customs

HM Treasury
Home Office
Land Registry
Ministry of Defence
Ministry of Justice
National Probation Directorate
Office for National Statistics
Office of Fair Trading
Office of Gas and Electrical Markets
Office of Rail Regulation
Office of Water Services
Royal Mint
Serious Fraud Office
Serious Organised Crime Agency
The National Archives
Treasury Solicitor

Imports: Israel

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-6W, on imports: Israel, how many of the 26 consignments examined between the end of July and the end of September 2008 were identified as originating in settlements; which settlements were involved; which import/export companies were involved; and for which UK retailer they were intended. [234373]

Mr. Timms: Of the 26 consignments examined between the end of July and end of September 2008 one consignment was identified as originating in a settlement—the Jordan Valley. The import/export company and the UK retailer cannot be named for reasons of commercial confidentiality.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many consignments of Ahava skin care products have been imported into the UK in each of the last three years; and how many of these consignments were manufactured in settlements in the Occupied Territories. [234374]

Mr. Timms: Commercial confidentiality makes it inappropriate to provide this information for an individual supplier.

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-86W, on imports: Israel, how many of the consignments were labelled *(a)* West Bank, *(b)* Jordan Valley and *(c)* Israel; and how many were identified as originating in an Israeli settlement. [234375]

Mr. Timms: The information requested is not available. However, the number of consignments identified as originating in an Israeli settlement in the last three years were as follows:

1 February to 31 January each year	*Number*
2005-06	128
2006-07	127
2007-08	214

Dr. Starkey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answers of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 885-86W and 886W, on imports: Occupied Territories and imports: Israel, how many of the consignments entering the UK in each of the last three years from *(a)* Israel and *(b)* the Occupied Palestinian Territories originated in Israeli settlements; and how many were labelled as originating in settlements. [234376]

Mr. Timms: No information is available on how many of the consignments entering the UK from Israel and the Occupied Territories in each of the last three years originated in Israeli settlements, or on the number that were labelled as originating in settlements. Records are available only on imports that are identified as incorrectly claiming Israeli origin.

Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the answer of 19 March 2007, *Official Report*, column 706W, on customs: manpower, what assessment he has now made of the effect on *(a)* detection rates and *(b)* other measures in relation to illegal imports of persons and goods of the disbanding of the Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Team. [234200]

Mr. Timms: The former Paymaster General's earlier answer still applies in respect of the re-organisation of the former Maritime and Aviation Intelligence Teams (MAIT). The intelligence activity is driven by national hubs of expertise together with target and selection teams, which link into operational teams, resulting in detection activity across the whole of the UK. In addition the Government have created the United Kingdom Border Agency, which is now responsible for all cross border matters including those that were formally the responsibility of MAIT; putting these dual responsibilities under one frontier facing Law Enforcement Agency. HM Revenue and Customs is working closely with the shadow UKBA in building its Border focused intelligence capability.

Public Buildings: Empty Property

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2155W, on public buildings: empty property, what the *(a)* address, *(b)* occupying organisation and *(c)* floor area of each part of the Government civil estate that is currently occupied. [233417]

Angela Eagle: The civil estate is defined as:

> "the workspace, offices and other property (land and buildings) used to deliver departments' activities that is owned, leased, or occupied by a government body including non-ministerial departments, agencies, executive NDPBs and Special Health Authorities in Great Britain. It does not include the operational NHS Estate, the Prisons Operational Estate, the Foreign Office Overseas Estate, the Defra Rural Estate, the privatised rail entities, public corporations or the defence estate (except for certain civil elements)."

The information requested has been placed in the Libraries using the aforementioned definition and applies only to occupations of English Departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies. It excludes information on all but the headquarters properties occupied by the security services.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond) of 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2155W, on public buildings: empty property, if he will publish the latest list of actual vacant space by *(a)* floor area, *(b)* occupying organisation and *(c)* location which was used to calculate the 1.43 per cent. figure. [233420]

Angela Eagle: The information requested has been placed in the Libraries.

Smuggling: Tobacco

Mike Penning: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs has made of the correlation between levels of use of hand-rolling tobacco in the UK and the amount of hand-rolling tobacco illegally smuggled into the UK. [234183]

Angela Eagle: HMRC has made no assessment of the correlation between levels of use of hand-rolling tobacco in the UK and the amount of hand-rolling tobacco illegally smuggled into the UK.

Estimates for the total amount of hand-rolling tobacco used in the UK and the amount of hand-rolling tobacco illicitly smuggled into the UK are estimated separately for the years 2001-02 to 2005-06 and are reported in "Measuring Indirect Tax Losses—2007" published by HMRC in October 2007, which is available in the House of Commons Library.

Tax Allowances: Biofuels

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate has been made of the number of small processors who take advantage of the under 2,500 litres per annum personal use of biodiesel duty exemption. [234514]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) estimate that there are between 1,000 and 1,250 small biofuel producers below the 2,500 litre per annum registration threshold.

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he has taken to ensure that the rules relating to the 2,500 litres per annum personal use biodiesel duty exemption are being complied with. [234515]

Angela Eagle *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: HMRC ensures that the rules relating to the 2,500 litres per annum biofuel duty threshold are complied with through education, monitoring and targeted assurance activity.

Guidance on the exemption and its limits has been published and publicised on the HMRC website. This publicity has been augmented through attendance at biofuel trade fairs and contributions to trade publications where the regulations restricting the exemption to personal use were explained.

HMRC monitors the position, through administration and assurance activities, of producers operating above and below the limits. Since the threshold was introduced, in July 2007, work has been done centrally and locally to test compliance with the rules. Additionally, through their monitoring of telephone and written enquiries about the threshold, HMRC are satisfied that the rules are generally understood and complied with.

VAT: Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether value added tax must be charged on certificates of lawfulness applications issued by local planning authorities to householders. [234977]

Mr. Timms: Fees charged by local authorities for issuing certificates of lawfulness are outside the scope of VAT.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Licensing

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* licences and *(b)* certificates were in force authorising the sale of alcohol in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [234045]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. Based on returns from around 70 per cent. of local councils, this showed that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were 111,567 premises licences authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (23,218 on-sale only; 32,917 off-sales only; and 55,432 with both on and off sales of alcohol). There were 12,137 club premises certificates authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (4,870 on-sale only; and 7,267 with both on and off sales of alcohol). The April 2007 to March 2008 Bulletin shows that, for this period (based on returns from around 85 per cent. of licensing authorities) there were 140,845 premises licences authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (29,663 on-sale only; 40,606 off-sales only; and 69,189 with both on and off sales of alcohol; 1,387 had permissions to sell alcohol but did not specify in what capacity). There were 14,515 club premises certificates authorising the sale or supply of alcohol (6,654 on-sale only; and 7,758 with both on and off sales of alcohol; 103 had permissions to sell alcohol but did not specify in what capacity).

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many alcohol licences in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have been revoked on the grounds of sale of alcohol to children since the implementation of the Licensing Act 2003. [233730]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Statistical bulletins on licences to sell alcohol include the number of licences revoked, but do not indicate the reason why. Licences may be revoked on review for one or more reasons relating to the four licensing objectives, including sales of alcohol to children.

The first DCMS Statistical Bulletin on Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment, under the provisions of the Licensing Act 2003, was published on 8 November 2007. This shows that, between April 2006 and March 2007, there were no completed reviews in the Dacorum licensing authority area (which covers Hemel Hempstead) and consequently no revocations. For the county of Hertfordshire as a whole, there were 13 completed reviews which resulted in 10 premises licences or club premises certificates having other conditions added or modified, two premises licences or club premises certificates being suspended and one premises licences revoked or club premises certificate withdrawn.

The second statistical bulletin, published on 30 October 2008 and covering the period between April 2007 and March 2008, shows that there were three completed reviews in the Dacorum licensing authority area which resulted in added or modified conditions to the premises licence or club premises certificates. For Hertfordshire as a whole there were 19 completed reviews for this period which resulted in two premises licenses or club premises certificates being suspended and two premises licences being revoked or club premises certificates being withdrawn.

Since 6 April 2007, a premises licence can be suspended by a court under Section 147B(1) of the Licensing Act 2003 (as amended by the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006) for the sale or supply of alcohol, following an offence of persistently selling to underage children. No premises licenses or club premises certificates have been suspended on these grounds in Hertfordshire county for the most recent statistical bulletin period.

BBC: Newspaper Press

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the potential effect on the viability of regional newspapers and their websites of the BBC Trust's Local Video proposals; and what assessment has been made of the competition position of the BBC's online services in respect of the independent media. [232490]

Andy Burnham: These are matters for the BBC Trust. As part of the public value test considering the local video proposal, Ofcom is conducting a market impact assessment for the trust.

BBC: Public Service Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the BBC's compliance with its public service broadcasting obligations in the last seven days. [233889]

Andy Burnham: On 29 October, Sir Michael Lyons telephoned to brief me on the BBC Trust's response to the editorial breaches in the "Russell Brand Show". On 5 November, I had a scheduled meeting with Mark Thompson, in which we discussed the same issue.

British Broadcasting Corporation: Pay

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on its policy on levels of remuneration for BBC senior executives. [234078]

Andy Burnham: None.

Casinos: Licensing

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport by what procedures local authorities may license new casinos in their areas other than the 16 small and large casinos catered for in his Department's recently-sponsored legislation. [233566]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* Under the 1968 Gaming Act, casinos could be established in 53 permitted areas in England, Wales and Scotland, provided that the Gambling Commission had issued a valid certificate of consent and local licensing justices had approved a casino licence application for the premises.

The final date for applications to the Gambling Commission for a certificate of consent was 28 April 2006. Therefore no new certificates of consent and no related new casino licences can be issued.

There are six potential applications for casino licences (including one card club) under the 1968 Gaming Act that have not yet been heard by local licensing justices. Existing 1968 Gaming Act casinos may also apply to move to substitute premises within the same permitted area. Finally, there are 16 casino licence applications where an appeal has been lodged, or is being considered, against a decision by local licensing justices not to grant a casino licence.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233856]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Staff in DCMS are actively encouraged to work alternative working patterns, including flexible working hours, job-sharing and working from home. These are mainly arranged at local line management level and the Department does not hold comprehensive data centrally about the percentages of staff involved. DCMS are in the process of installing a new human resources information system, which when operational will record this information.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its establishment. [234096]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has lost or had stolen the following items since 1998. The Department does not hold records for 1997.

		Memory sticks	*Laptops*	*Mobile phones*
1998	Lost	—	4	—
1999	Lost	—	—	1

		Memory sticks	*Laptops*	*Mobile phones*
2000	Lost	—	1	—
2001	Lost	—	—	2
	Stolen	—	2	—
2002	Stolen	—	1	—
2003	Lost	—	—	1
2004	Lost	—	—	1
2005	Lost	1	—	—
	Stolen	—	—	2
2006	None	—	—	—
2007	Lost	2	—	4
	Stolen	—	—	1
2008	Lost	1	—	2
	Stolen	—	—	1
Total		4	8	15

No desktop computers or hard drives have been lost or stolen.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many permanent staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies are classified as (i) staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team. [233613]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and its agency the Royal Parks, there are no permanent staff who are (i) classified as staff without posts and (ii) part of a people action team.

Design: Apprentices

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what steps he is taking to increase the uptake of apprenticeships in the design sector. [234031]

Barbara Follett: In our strategy document, "Creative Britain: New Talents for a New Economy", we commit to encouraging employers to establish up to 5,000 apprenticeships in the creative industries by 2013. This includes employers in the design sector. Representatives from both Creative and Cultural Skills and the Design Council will sit on our official-level Apprenticeship Working Group. This will look at how to increase the number of apprenticeships in existing frameworks, whether there is demand for new frameworks and whether it is possible to convert existing employer-led training schemes into Government-supported apprenticeships.

Digital Broadcasting

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on advertising the digital switchover. [233843]

Andy Burnham: The public information campaign for digital TV switchover is being handled by Digital UK, an independent, not-for-profit organisation, established by the broadcasting industry to lead the switchover programme.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Orkney and Shetland (Mr. Carmichael) on 18 February 2008, *Official Report,* column 324W.

Remembrance Day

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department has spent on Remembrance Day in each of the last 10 years. [233841]

Barbara Follett: The Department for Culture, Media and Sport has been responsible for co-ordinating arrangements for the national Remembrance Sunday ceremony since 2005. The costs of preparing for the day and the ceremony itself are met by a number of Departments and organisations. DCMS is responsible for funding the provision of some of the infrastructure of the day, and the amount spent by the Department each year is set out in the table.

	£
2005	86,682.16
2006	89,974.11
2007	88,497.03

Sports: Disabled

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to fund elite athletes with a learning disability who are ineligible to receive funding from the National Lottery Sports Fund from other sources; and if he will make a statement. [230111]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* UK Sport is the Government body that funds elite athletes. Its funding is primarily focused on athletes eligible to compete at the Olympics and Paralympics. Funding is not currently provided to elite athletes with a learning disability as they not eligible for the Paralympics. Should athletes with a learning disability be re-introduced to Paralympic competition the provision of funding will be considered by UK Sport.

Sports: Finance

Mr. Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of mechanisms in place for the funding of the development of elite athletes. [233876]

Andy Burnham: UK Sport have developed an investment strategy, which targets funding primarily at those sports and athletes likely to win medals. Additionally, UK Sport's Mission 2012 mechanism is in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of that strategy and the investment made in each Olympic and Paralympic sport. The Minister for Sport and his officials regularly meet with UK Sport to review progress.

Sports: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what funding his Department has provided for *(a)* amateur sports clubs and *(b)* sport in schools in Hemel Hempstead since 1997. [233837]

Mr. Sutcliffe: My Department does not provide any direct funding of grassroots sport; funding is channelled through Sport England. Sport England have advised that they do not hold specific information about grants benefiting amateur sports clubs and sport in schools in Hemel Hempstead and the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

However, Sport England can identify the specific projects they have supported in Hemel Hempstead and Dacorum local authority. The total value of these awards is £6,000,764 (£5,975,104 Lottery funding and £25,660 Exchequer funding).

Of this total, some awards made specifically to amateur sports clubs and sport in schools. The value of these awards is £446,864 to £98,716 to amateur sports clubs and £348,148 to schools.

While only a limited number of awards have been identified as being made specifically to amateur sports clubs or schools sports projects, amateur sports clubs and school sport projects would have benefited significantly from other grants within the overall figures provided.

Swimming: Grants

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what forecast he has made of the take-up by local authorities of grants for free swimming for people aged *(a)* over 60 years and *(b)* under 16 years. [234968]

Andy Burnham: The closing date for local authorities to confirm their participation in all elements of the Free Swimming Programme has now passed. We are collating responses and I will be issuing a statement shortly.

Television Companies: Finance

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how much his Department spent in grants for each of the terrestrial television stations in each of the last 10 years. [233883]

Andy Burnham: This Department has only provided grants to S4C in the last 10 years. The following figures are the audited outturn figures.

	£ million
1998-99	75,127
1999-2000	75,127
2000-01	75,127
2001-02	76,817
2002-03	80,217
2003-04	85,217
2004-05	92,217
2005-06	92,217
2006-07	92,217
2007-08	92,817

Television: Licensing

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many people were prosecuted in each of the last five years for failing to purchase a television licence. [233704]

Andy Burnham *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The following data have been provided by the Ministry of Justice and derived from the court proceedings database held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform. Data are given on the basis that these offences were the principal offence for which the persons were dealt with. Data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts in England and Wales for offences relating to TV licence evasion

	Number
2002	110,138
2003	93,754
2004	115,597
2005	139,052
2006	129,878

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had on the television licence fee in the last seven days. [233890]

Andy Burnham: None.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Art Works

Mr. McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the contribution to the economy of the domestic art market; how many people are employed in the UK art market; what estimate he has made of the UK's share of the *(a)* global and *(b)* European art markets; and what progress the (i) Government and (ii) European Commission has made on securing an international agreement on artists' resale rights. [234192]

Mr. Lammy: The Government commissioned the Intellectual Property Institute to produce an independent report on the effect on the UK art market of the introduction of artist's resale right. I refer my right hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement given by the then Minister of State for Science and Innovation on 2 April 2008, *Official Report*, columns 59-60WS.

The UK Government continue to support the European Community and its member states' proposal to the 'World Intellectual Property Organisation's Standing Committee on Copyright and Related Rights' that it should consider artist's resale right as part of its future work.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1057W, on dementia: research, how much of the intended £30 million Medical Research Council (MRC) and Wellcome Trust funding into neurodegenerative diseases is to be funded by *(a)* the MRC and the Wellcome Trust and *(b)* by medical research charities; how much is to be spent in each year of the research programme; and how much is to be spent on research into each form of neurodegenerative disease. [234666]

Mr. Lammy: Of the £30 million to be made available for research into this neurodegenerative disease initiative, the Medical Research Council (one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research) will provide £10 million and the Wellcome Trust (the UK's largest medical research charity) £20 million. Awards will be made jointly.

The type of proposals that are submitted will determine whether other medical research charities contribute and, if so, how much they will contribute.

The amounts to be spent in each year and the amounts to be spent on each form of neurodegenerative disease will depend on the proposals submitted. Research proposals in all areas of neurodegenerative disease will compete for the funding available. Awards will be made according to their scientific quality and importance to human health.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [231340]

Mr. Simon: *(a)* The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills was established in June 2007 and as a result we are only able to provide information from June 2007 to March 2008. The salary cost for employing press officers in the Department was £267,095.52 and the cost of employing communications officers was £659,021.77.

(b) and *(c)* For much of its business, the Department operates through a number of arms length bodies including 20 non-departmental public bodies and other agencies. It is the responsibility of each body to manage its staff and costs. Therefore the Department does not hold the information requested centrally and there would be a disproportionate cost to gather the information requested.

Departmental Pensions

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of civil servants in his Department and its agencies are members of the *(a)* Classic, *(b)* Classic Plus, *(c)* Nuvos and *(d)* Premium civil service pension schemes. [229531]

Mr. Simon: The information is set out in the following table.

Pension scheme	*Number of staff*	*Proportion (percentage)*
Classic	555	69
Premium and Classic Plus	200	25
NUVOS	33	4
Total	788	98

The numbers exclude 25 staff in Government Skills, who transferred to my Department from Cabinet Office, whose pension details are not currently available.

The Department does not hold details of individual numbers of staff in the Premium and Classic Plus schemes nor information on numbers of staff in each scheme in its two agencies. This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Higher Education

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what research he plans to undertake on the scale and scope of higher education delivered by further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [233712]

Mr. Lammy: Data on the scale and scope of higher education delivered by further education colleges are collected annually. There has always been considerable diversity between further education colleges as regards the delivery of higher education. The best offer a distinctive form of excellence when they offer high quality convenient access to higher education for potential students who might not otherwise participate in higher education. Some colleges already do this; some are capable of becoming excellent; but some may decide that their strengths lie outside the delivery of higher education. We want to foster a sustainable system in which institutions take informed decisions about what they should and should not attempt to deliver in the light of the challenges we have identified through the debate we have launched on the long-term future of higher education.

Higher Education: Business

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to strengthen the links between higher education institutions and the economy in their local areas. [234074]

Mr. Lammy: The Government are supporting HEFCE's development of a programme of activities that will help Higher Education Institution's (HEIs) meet the high level skills needs of the economy, with a focus on enhancing the role of HE institutions in work force development. In particular, the 2008 HEFCE Grant letter allocated over £100 million of new resources over the spending review period to support new co-funded entrants, infrastructure development and wider employer engagement activity within HEIs. This will help HEIs make real progress in responding to the skills needs of employers and their staff and form a sustainable knowledge economy in which higher learning informs and improves economic performance.

The Higher Education Innovation Fund (HEIF) gives every English HEI funding to build its capacity to work with business. This fund will reach £150 million per annum by the end of the spending review period. In their HEIF strategies, 83 per cent. of institutions said that small and medium enterprises were a target, and 85 per cent. were targeting knowledge exchange activity within the region.

During 2008-11 the Technology Strategy Board will co-ordinate a £1 billion programme in partnership with Research Councils and the Regional Development Agencies with a key aim of helping businesses to access the research base. In addition, RDAs will provide Innovation Vouchers to at least 500 businesses as a means for smaller firms to collaborate with knowledge institutions to help those firms boost their innovation.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr. Rob Wilson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the block grant to each of the higher education institutions was for research in 2007-08. [233711]

Mr. Lammy: Within England, the research block grant for higher education institutions is allocated and distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The following table sets out HEFCE research funding in 2007-08. The data are available in HEFCE publication 2007/32 'Recurrent grants for 2007:08—Final Allocations'.

£ million

	HEFCE research funding for 2007-08
Universities	
Anglia Ruskin University	0.7
Aston University	7.0
University of Bath	18.1
Bath Spa University	0.4
University of Bedfordshire	0.5
Birkbeck College	9.8
University of Birmingham	43.0
Birmingham City University	0.9
University of Bolton	0.3
Bournemouth University	0.8
University of Bradford	6.9
University of Brighton	4.9
University of Bristol	43.2
Brunel University	8.6
Buckinghamshire New University	0.7
University of Cambridge	107.1
Canterbury Christ Church University	0.1
University of Central Lancashire	1.5
University of Chester	0.3
University of Chichester	0.3
City University, London	6.5
Coventry University	1.1
University of Cumbria	0.3
De Montfort University	4.6
University of Derby	0.3
University of Durham	23.7
University of East Anglia	16.0
University of East London	1.6
Edge Hill University	0.0
University of Essex	11.0
University of Exeter	14.2
University of Gloucestershire	0.9
Goldsmiths College, University of London	8.5
University of Greenwich	1.7
University of Hertfordshire	2.9
University of Huddersfield	1.6
University of Hull	6.4
Imperial College London	91.8
Keele University	6.8
University of Kent	8.0
King's College London	58.4
Kingston University	1.3
Lancaster University	17.8
University of Leeds	47.2
Leeds Metropolitan University	1.1
University of Leicester	18.4
University of Lincoln	0.3
University of Liverpool	30.2
Liverpool Hope University	0.1
Liverpool John Moores University	3.1
London Metropolitan University	0.8
London South Bank University	1.5
Loughborough University	15.6
University of Manchester	77.0
Manchester Metropolitan University	3.6
Middlesex University	2.0
University of Newcastle upon Tyne	32.9
University of Northampton	0.4
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	1.4
University of Nottingham	39.7
Nottingham Trent University	2.9
Open University	7.9
University of Oxford	104.2
Oxford Brookes University	2.7
University of Plymouth	3.8
University of Portsmouth	4.5
Queen Mary, University of London	24.2
University of Reading	22.8
Roehampton University	1.2
Royal Holloway, University of London	14.3
University of Salford	8.6
University of Sheffield	43.9
Sheffield Hallam University	3.9
University of Southampton	46.5
Southampton Solent University	0.1
Staffordshire University	0.8
University of Sunderland	1.1
University of Surrey	18.0
University of Sussex	17.9
University of Teesside	0.5
Thames Valley University	0.1

	£ million HEFCE research funding for 2007-08
University College London	101.3
University of Warwick	30.6
University of the West of England, Bristol	2.7
University of Westminster	2.2
University of Winchester	0.5
University of Wolverhampton	0.7
University of Worcester	0.1
University of York	23.4
York St John University	0.1
Specialist institutions and general colleges	
Birmingham College of Food, Tourism and Creative Studies	0.0
Bishop Grosseteste University College, Lincoln	0.0
Arts Institute at Bournemouth	0.0
Institute of Cancer Research	16.2
Central School of Speech and Drama	0.0
Courtauld Institute of Art	1.3
Cranfield University	9.6
University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury, Epsom, Farnham, Maidstone, Rochester	0.6
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	0.0
Dartington College of Arts	0.3
Institute of Education	8.5
University College Falmouth	0.2
Guildhall School of Music and Drama	0.0
Harper Adams University College	0.1
Heythrop College	0.0
Leeds College of Music	0.0
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	0.0
Liverpool Institute for Performing Arts	0.0
University of the Arts London	9.7
University of London	0.4
London Business School	4.7
London School of Economics and Political Science	18.1
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	10.4
Newman College of Higher Education	0.0
Norwich School of Art and Design	0.2
School of Oriental and African Studies	6.8
School of Pharmacy	3.0
University College Plymouth St. Mark and St. John	0.0
Ravensbourne College of Design and Communication	0.0
RCN Institute	0.0
Rose Bruford College	0.0
Royal Academy of Music	0.3
Royal Agricultural College	0.0
Royal College of Art	2.8
Royal College of Music	0.4
Royal Northern College of Music	0.2
Royal Veterinary College	4.6
St. George's Hospital Medical School	7.5
St. Mary's University College	0.1
Trinity Laban Conservatoire of Music and Dance	0.0
Writtle College	0.0
England total	1,413.0

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government have taken to ensure the funding formula of the Higher Education Funding Council for England is equitable for all higher education institutions. [234073]

Mr. Lammy: The Government issue strategic direction from time to time to the Funding Council on the objectives to be achieved through its funding of institutions. We do this most notably in the annual grant letter to the Council determining priorities for the year ahead.

Higher Education: Research

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what recent steps the Government have taken to improve standards in research at UK universities. [234075]

Mr. Lammy: This Government are committed to maintaining the UK's world class university system and have already taken significant and recent steps to sustain the excellence of the UK research base and improve the exploitation of knowledge. The decline in public investment in science during the 1980s and early 1990s has been reversed. Since 1997, the ring-fenced science budget has more than doubled and by the end of the spending review period research funding from the Department for Innovation Universities and Skills will reach almost £6 billion per annum. The Government have addressed the backlog of underinvestment in research infrastructure through a combination of capital funding and a move towards funding the full economic cost of research.

The dual support funding system for research has a strong incentive effect. The combination of the research assessment exercise, which informs the HEFCE quality related block grant, and the Research Councils' competitive allocation of funding through peer review has driven up the quality of research. The combination has been extremely successful over the last decade and the UK ranks second only to the USA in the world for research excellence overall.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Government have allocated for research programmes in West Midlands universities in 2008-09. [234076]

Mr. Lammy: The Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills funds research programmes in Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) in England through the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) and the Research Councils.

For West Midlands HEIs, HEFCE research funding for the year 2008-09 is £91.9 million. Data on Research Council funding is collected by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) from university returns. The most recent HESA data are for 2006-07, when West Midlands HEIs received £58.9 million of Research Council funding.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what steps the Government plan to take to improve the standards of research in UK higher education institutions. [234077]

Mr. Lammy: The dual support funding system for research creates strong incentives for institutions to drive up the quality of their research. The Higher Education Funding Council is currently working on plans for the research excellence framework, which aims to promote excellent research while reducing the administrative burden of assessing it.

Mr. Laxton: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much quality related funding was awarded in the last funding round to universities in each region. [234225]

Mr. Lammy: Quality Related research funding (QR) is allocated and distributed by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE).

The following table sets out QR funding from HEFCE for each of the regions in 2008/09. Figures include both quality-related research (QR) funding and capability funding. QR funding accounts for 98 per cent. of total HEFCE research funding.

2008-09 HEFCE research funding by region

Region	*(£ million)*
East Midlands	84.4
East of England	153.0
London	432.7
North East	60.9
North West	150.4
Open University	7.4
South East	252.9
South West	87.0
West Midlands	91.9
Yorkshire and the Humber	137.9
Total England	1,458.4

Intellectual Property

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the proposed work programme for the Strategic Advisory Board for Intellectual Property Policy will be made available; and what funding has been provided for the Board to conduct research. [234846]

Mr. Lammy: Since its establishment in June, the Board of SABIP has identified a number of topics for its work programme and advised Ministers of these. Work is due to begin shortly on two of these, and a further three topics are in the process of being scoped.

In line with the Gowers recommendation, £500,000 p.a. is available for SABIP to conduct its research programme.

Full details of the work programme are available at www.sabip.org.uk.

Science: Higher Education

Adam Afriyie: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 32-33WS, on Education (Student Support) Regulations, (1) which parts of the science budget are not ring-fenced; [232741]

(2) whether the research funding component of the Higher Education Funding Council for England's budget will be considered in his Department's search for cost savings. [232742]

Mr. Lammy *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* Funding for science and research has doubled since we took office. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State made clear in his statement on 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* columns 32-34WS that all of the budget for science will be maintained. That includes the research funding component of HEFCE's budget.

Student Loans Company: Telephone Services

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many calls have been made to the Student Loan Company's premium rate telephone line in each year since 2000; what the average duration of such calls was; what the revenue raised was; and if he will make a statement. [232404]

Mr. Lammy: The Student Loan Company has not operated any premium rate telephone lines since 2000.

Vocational Training

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what qualifying criteria he has established for skills health checks. [230750]

Mr. Simon: In 'Opportunity, Employment and Progression: Making Skills Work' published in November 2007, which sets out our plans for reforming our welfare and skills system, the Government announced the introduction of a skills health check to help fully to assess the skills and learning requirements needed by unemployed people to support their return to work.

The skills health check, which will include a new diagnostic assessment tool, will be delivered by careers advisers who will use the full range of advisory services they have at their disposal to consider an individual's skill strengths and gaps, and agree an action plan to address any needs they have. There are no qualifying criteria laid down to determine who should get this service, but priority will be given to those with the greatest need for help in getting back to work.

The skills health check, including a prototype skills diagnostic tool, is being trialled as part of an integrated employment and skills offer, initially in the West Midlands, and from autumn 2010 will be available as part of a national adult advancement and careers service.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Attendance Allowance

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many applications for attendance allowance were *(a)* made, *(b)* granted and *(c)* refused in each of the last five years; and of those applications refused, how many have been subject to (i) successful appeal, (ii) unsuccessful appeal and (iii) further review. [232327]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information on attendance allowance claims is in the following table. It is not possible to identify how many of the refused applications were subject to appeal.

Attendance allowance claims: Great Britain

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Received	422,140	393,890	410,730	384,870	375,590
Awarded	329,090	310,150	325,050	310,640	306,890
Refused	90,950	82,430	85,660	78,490	67,860
All decisions	420,040	392,580	410,700	389,130	374,740

Notes:

1. This information is generated by the disability living allowance/attendance allowance computer system for management purposes. It is not a National Statistic. Management information records and counts events. This means that the number of claims refused is not directly comparable to the number of claims received because a decision to refuse or accept a claim is not necessarily made in the same time period.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Claims received: It is not possible for a claimant to make concurrent multiple claims. A customer can make more than one claim in a year. However, a new claim cannot be made until a decision on the previous claim has been made.
4. All decisions will include decisions made on claims that were made in the previous year.

Source:

DWP Management Information Statistics

Children: Maintenance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of children live in families receiving Child Support Agency payments. [225345]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 9 October 2008]:* The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Commissioner for Child Maintenance.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children live in families receiving Child Support Agency payments *(a)* in total and *(b)* as a percentage of the total cohort. [225345]

The Agency does not hold information on the number of children who live in families receiving child maintenance payments; however information on the number of children in respect of whom child maintenance is paid is available. At the end of September 2008, regular maintenance had been received in respect of 778,200 children, 69% of the total number of children in respect of whom maintenance was due.

Further information on the number of children benefiting from maintenance payments, and the number of cases receiving regular maintenance is routinely published in the Child Support Agency's Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/
csa_quarterly_sep08.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many Child Support Agency cases are being dealt with manually. [226097]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Commissioner for Child Maintenance.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how many Child Support Agency cases are being dealt with manually. [226097]

At the end of September 44,000 open cases were being progressed clerically which is around 3% of the total caseload. Under the Agency's Operational Improvement Plan cases which for technical reasons can not be processed on the current computer system (CS2) were moved to our Bolton site to be administered clerically. By the end of September 2008, almost £60 million in child maintenance had been passed to parents with care whose cases are processed clerically.

Information on the number of clerical cases is routinely published in Table 20 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics (QSS), the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/
csa_quarterly_sep08.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Colchester (Bob Russell) of 20 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 17, if he will bring forward proposals to change the basis of assessment of non-resident parents' incomes in respect of deductions allowed for company cars. [233177]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* There are no plans to amend legislation in this respect.

Departmental Disabled Staff

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many and what proportion of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* its agencies' staff were registered disabled in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement; [230564]

(2) how many and what proportion of *(a)* his Department's and *(b)* its agencies' staff are registered disabled; and if he will make a statement. [230565]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is contained in the following table.

The table sets out information about the numbers of staff who have declared themselves to be disabled. While the Department encourages staff to make a declaration, declaration is voluntary.

We are aware that not all disabled staff do declare that they consider themselves to be disabled, and the true figure may be higher than the figures shown. For example, the 2008 DWP Staff Survey (which is completed anonymously), showed that 13.6 per cent. of respondents considered themselves to have a long standing health condition or disability. According to the latest figures provided, we currently have 5.7 per cent. of our work force declared disabled.

The Department for Work and Pensions was created in July 2001, and figures prior to 2002 are unobtainable. Figures from 2002 to 2005 are based on the proportion of disabled staff as a proportion of all staff in the Department, including those who had not made a declaration about their disability. However, following new guidance from the Cabinet Office, the figures from 2006 to the present date exclude all staff who have not declared their disability status.

	Department/agency	*Disabled staff*	*Percentage disabled*
2008	DWP total	6,075	5.7
	Job Centre Plus	4,598	6.7
	The Pension Service	384	3.7
	Disability and Carers Service	356	6.1
	Child Support Agency	342	3.4
2007	DWP total	6,209	5.5
	Job Centre Plus	4,636	6.4
	The Pension Service	388	3.4
	Disability and Carers Service	385	5.9
	Child Support Agency	388	3.4
2006	DWP total	6,231	5.2
	Job Centre Plus	4,726	6.4
	The Pension Service	343	3.7
	Disability and Carers Service	390	5.5
	Child Support Agency	343	2.7
2005	DWP total	6,703	5.2
	Jobcentre Plus	5,073	6.3
	The Pension service	495	2.9
	Disability and Carers Service	392	5.5
	Child Support Agency	309	2.8
	Appeals Service	42	5.4
2004	DWP total	7,066	5.1
	Job Centre Plus	5,389	6.3
	The Pension Service	538	2.7
	Disability and Carers Service	396	5.1
	Child Support Agency	305	2.5
	Appeals Service	44	5.1
2003	DWP total	6,999	5.0
	Jobcentre Plus	5,433	6.4
	The Pension Service	502	2.7
	Disability and Carers Service	307	3.9
	Child Support Agency	304	2.4
	Appeals Service	49	5.2
2002	DWP total	7,273	5.4

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230208]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department has a range of sanctions that can be applied according to the seriousness of the offence. These are:

Oral warning;

Written warning;

Final written warning;

Compulsory transfer;

Financial penalty;

Withdrawal of internet access;

Ban on promotion and temporary duties allowance;

Withdrawal of flexitime;

Demotion; and

Dismissal.

Information on the number of disciplinary penalties issued is provided as follows. The Department introduced a new personnel computer system incrementally from November 2006, being fully implemented by April 2007. Information is not available from this system prior to April 2007.

Information on written warnings and final written warnings is recorded together and cannot be separated.

Penalty type	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008*[1]	*Total*
Oral warning[2]	637	303	940
Written warning[2]	449	247	696
Dismissal	202	126	328
Grand total	1,288	676	1,964

[1] Latest date for which figures are available.
[2] This records the number of instances, it is not a record of the number of individuals. An individual can have more than one warning.

Additional sanction type	*1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008*	*1 April 2008 to 30 September 2008*[1]	*Total*
Compulsory transfer	1	1	2
Financial penalty	2	1	3
Withdrawal of internet access	0	0	0
Ban on promotion	14	10	24
Ban on temporary duties allowance	16	7	23
Withdrawal of flexitime	0	0	0
Demotion	4	1	5
Grand total	37	20	57

[1] Latest date for which figures are available.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals over the ages of *(a)* 50, *(b)* 55 and *(c)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in each of the last 10 years; and what percentage of total new employees each figure represents. [231834]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions was formed in June 2001. Therefore the first full year that recruitment statistics are available is the year ending 31 March 2003.

The available information on recruits is shown in the following table.

Year ending March each year	Recruits by age range						
	Age 50-54	Percentage of all recruits	Age 55-59	Percentage of all recruits	Age 60+	Percentage of all recruits	Total recruits
2003	780	7.1	411	3.8	59	0.5	10,919
2004	630	7.6	446	5.3	77	0.9	8,345
2005	270	8.1	183	5.5	52	1.6	3,345
2006	503	8.3	322	5.3	69	1.1	6,066
2007	461	8.1	330	5.8	80	1.4	5,671
2008	472	7.4	344	5.4	117	1.8	6,393

Note:
Includes permanent and temporary recruits.

Departmental Trade Unions

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many civil servants in his Department were seconded to work for *(a)* trades unions and *(b)* the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003. [229093]

Jonathan Shaw: Data on how many civil servants were seconded to work for trade unions and the Trades Union Congress in each year since 2003 are not held centrally. Secondments are arranged locally by individuals and line managers and to gather this information would involve line managers trawling their records at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what legislation provides for the disability living allowance mobility component; what *(a)* statutory instruments, *(b)* departmental circulars and *(c)* other documents he (i) has issued and (ii) plans to issue in the next 12 months consequent on the provisions of that legislation; and if he will make a statement. [229500]

Jonathan Shaw: The disability living allowance mobility component is provided for primarily by the Social Security Contributions and Benefits Act 1992 (1992 c4)/Part III Non-contributory Benefits and the Social Security (Disability Living Allowance) Regulations 1991, SI.1991/2890, as amended. The most easily accessible version of the amended legislation can be found on the internet at:

www.dwp.gov.uk/advisers/docs/lawvols/bluevol/

Prior to, and since the introduction of disability living allowance in 1992, there have been numerous departmental communications to staff on the mobility component including guidance, information notes, memos and bulletins. Details of these communications are not centrally collated and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There are currently no plans to amend the disability living allowance regulations in the next 12 months. It is not possible to say what circulars or other documents will be issued during this period.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of people claiming *(a)* disability living allowance and *(b)* attendance allowance receive awards for an indefinite period, broken down by condition. [230089]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the tables.

Disability living allowance cases in payment by main disabling condition: Indefinite awards Great Britain, February 2008

	Indefinite awards	Proportion of awards that are for an indefinite period (percentage)
Arthritis	474,300	86
Back Ailments	197,000	78
Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease	160,000	70
Blindness	58,900	86
Deafness	23,000	63
Heart Disease	132,800	87
Chest Disease	77,200	87
Stroke Related	87,700	83
Frailty	2,500	93
Epilepsy	33,200	48
Multiple Sclerosis	59,000	93
Parkinson's Disease	15,400	96
Diabetes Mellitus	28,900	53
Learning Difficulty	182,100	62
Mental Health Causes	211,300	43
Renal Disorders	7,300	59
AIDS	6,300	84
Skin Disease	4,300	29
Malignant Disease	40,100	57
Other	226,800	66

Attendance allowance cases in payment by disabling condition: Indefinite awards Great Britain, February 2008

	Indefinite awards	Proportion of awards that are for an indefinite period (percentage)
Arthritis	434,600	99
Back Ailments	32,500	98
Muscle/Joint/Bone Disease	81,700	98
Blindness	53,200	100
Deafness	3,300	98
Heart Disease	125,700	99
Chest Disease	65,800	99
Stroke Related	90,200	98
Frailty	217,000	100
Epilepsy	4,100	99
Multiple Sclerosis	2,500	100
Parkinson's Disease	30,700	99
Diabetes Mellitus	29,700	99
Learning Difficulty	2,400	100
Mental Health Causes	133,100	99
Renal Disorders	4,700	93
AIDS	—	100
Skin Disease	1,000	95
Malignant Disease	25,900	92

Attendance allowance cases in payment by disabling condition: Indefinite awards Great Britain, February 2008

	Indefinite awards	Proportion of awards that are for an indefinite period (percentage)
Other	57,000	79

— = Nil or negligible

Notes:

1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should be used only as a guide.
3. Percentages are rounded to the nearest whole number.
4. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
5. Where more than one disability is present the main disabling condition only is recorded. "Other" includes 25 medical conditions.
6. A diagnosed medical condition does not mean that someone is automatically entitled to disability living allowance or attendance allowance. Entitlement is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care and/or mobility because of their disability. These statistics are only collected for administrative purposes.
7. Although the preferred data source for benefit statistics is 100 per cent. Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study, the 5 per cent. sample data has been used in this case because it provides some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources, in particular, more complete information on the disabling condition of disability living allowance claimants.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Disability Living Allowance: Children

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many children under the age of 16 years in the London Borough of Redbridge have received the *(a)* (i) higher and (ii) lower level mobility component of disability living allowance and *(b)* (A) highest, (B) middle and (C) lowest level personal care component of disability living allowance in the last 12 months. [231869]

Jonathan Shaw: The available information is in the following table.

Numbers of recipients of disability living allowance in the London borough of Redbridge under the age of 16 by component: February 2008

	Number
Highest rate care and higher rate mobility	210
Highest rate care and lower rate mobility	120
Highest rate care only	120
Middle rate care and higher rate mobility	70
Middle rate care and lower rate mobility	300
Middle rate care only	220
Lowest rate care and higher rate mobility	—
Lowest rate care and lower rate mobility	—
Lowest rate care only	70
Higher rate mobility only	—
Lower rate mobility only	—

Notes:

1. "—" = nil or negligible
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Totals show the number of people in receipt of an allowance, and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
4. These figures are available on the DWP website at www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/tabtool.asp

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study

Disability Living Allowance: Mentally Ill

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what circumstances someone with a mental health problem might receive the mobility component of disability living allowance. [233813]

Jonathan Shaw: Entitlement to disability living allowance is not linked to particular disabling conditions, but is based on the extent to which a severely disabled person has personal care needs and/or walking difficulties as a result of their disability. People with a mental health problem are therefore able to claim the care component or mobility component of disability living allowance if they have such needs or difficulties.

The mobility component to disability living allowance is paid at one of two rates. Entitlement to the higher rate mobility component is broadly based on whether someone has a physical disablement which makes them unable or virtually unable to walk or is deemed to be treated as satisfying those conditions of entitlement. Entitlement to the lower rate mobility component is broadly based on whether someone requires guidance or supervision from another person when out of doors on unfamiliar routes. People with mental health problems are among the groups of disabled people who are likely to benefit from the lower rate mobility component.

Disability Living Allowance: Sight Impaired

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people with a visual impairment have applied for the *(a)* lower rate and *(b)* higher rate of the mobility component of the disability living allowance in the last 12 months. [229461]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is not available. Claimants apply for disability living allowance using a single claim pack, rather than applying separately for specific components.

Elderly

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to ensure that elderly people take full advantage of the energy-saving schemes available to them. [232977]

Joan Ruddock: I have been asked to reply.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) funds the Warm Front scheme, which is the Government's main programme for tackling the problem of fuel poverty in the private sector in England. The scheme provides a grant for specified heating and insulation measures of up to £2,700, or up to £4,000 where the work approved includes installation of an oil fired central heating system. The scheme works alongside a wide range of stakeholders, including local authorities, National Energy Action and other charities to ensure that those eligible for assistance receive the help they are entitled to. The scheme has been designed with its vulnerable and often elderly client base firmly in mind, and ensures ease of use and trouble free access to the measures available.

In addition to this, DECC funds the Energy Saving Trust (EST), which is a not-for-profit organisation, providing independent advice and support to consumers on sustainable energy and carbon emissions reductions. The EST raises awareness and support through regional advice centres that provide a one stop shop, which offers a range of free and impartial advice on energy efficiency and easy access to the full range of offers available, for example under Warm Front and for the over 70s under the Carbon Emission Reduction Target.

The EST has an informative, user friendly website and can be contacted for free through the Government-funded Act on CO_2 advice line.

The Act on CO_2 campaign has been broadcast nationally on TV, in the press, on the radio and online, with a new campaign website featuring a range of advice, tools and guidance on saving money and saving energy.

Fuel Poverty: Hillingdon

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* households and *(b)* pensioner households he estimates are in fuel poverty in (i) the London Borough of Hillingdon and (ii) Uxbridge constituency; how many there were in (A) the London Borough of Hillingdon and (B) Uxbridge constituency in 1996-97; and if he will make a statement. [231804]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I have been asked to reply.

The most recent year for which sub-national estimates of fuel poverty are available is 2003. The data for fuel poverty levels for 2003 come from the Fuel Poverty Indicator dataset—available online at:

http://www.fuelpovertyindicator.org.uk/

In 2003, there were around 4,800 households in the London borough of Hillingdon in fuel poverty and around 1,600 households in the Uxbridge constituency in fuel poverty.

The data are not split by type of household.

There is no consistent source of data available for sub-regional estimates of fuel poverty for 1996-97.

Incapacity Benefit

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people began a claim for *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* disability living allowance in each of the last 12 months, broken down by category of incapacity; [226163]

(2) how many people began to claim disability living allowance in each of the last 60 months, broken down by disability. [226166]

Jonathan Shaw: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people were *(a)* passed as eligible for, *(b)* examined before being passed as eligible for and *(c)* on incapacity benefit and disability living allowance in (i) 2006-07 and (ii) 2007-08. [228246]

Jonathan Shaw: Incapacity benefit is generally awarded initially on the basis of a medical certificate and the claimant meeting the contribution conditions. Referral for the personal capability assessment takes place once incapacity benefit has been awarded.

The available information on new claims is in the following tables.

New claims for incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance, Great Britain

Quarter ending	*Number*
May 2006	145,400
August 2006	152,300
November 2006	161,900
February 2007	149,400
May 2007	150,900
August 2007	157,700
November 2007	158,400
February 2008	123,500

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred.
2. It has not been possible to supply this data on a financial year basis, due to the way datasets were created.
3. Figures for the latest quarter do not include any late notifications and are subject to major changes in future quarters. For illustration purposes, total commencements for May 2004 increased by 18 per cent. in the year following their initial release.
4. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Disability living allowance new awards, Great Britain

Quarter ending	*Number*
May 2006	54,200
August 2006	59,800
November 2006	57,700
February 2007	58,400
May 2007	57,800
August 2007	61,700

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest hundred and have been uprated to be consistent with WPLS data.
2. Figures include people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
3. No scan data was available for November 2007. This means that it is not possible to determine on-flows from August 2007 to November 2007 and from November 2007 to February 2008.
4. The best statistics on benefits are now derived from 100 per cent. data sources. However, the 5 per cent. sample data still provide some detail not yet available from the 100 per cent. data sources. Figures are subject to a high degree of sampling error and should only be used as a guide.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5 per cent. sample.

Disability living allowance awards where the customer was examined by a health care professional, Great Britain

	Number
2006-07	20,628
2007-08	18,149

Source:

The Disability Living Allowance Legacy Computer System.

It is not possible to provide details about the number of individuals who became entitled to both incapacity benefit and disability living allowance. Information about the number of people who receive both disability living allowance and incapacity benefit is in the following table.

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance (entitled cases)

	Number
May 2006	1,288,510
August 2006	1,290,810
November 2006	1,299,010
February 2007	1,299,760
May 2007	1,301,180
August 2007	1,307,730
November 2007	1,314,210

Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance and disability living allowance (entitled cases)

	Number
February 2008	1,312,080

Notes:
1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Disability living allowance figures represent all people with an entitlement, including cases where the payment has been suspended, for example, if they are in hospital.
Source:
WPLS 100 per cent. data

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for incapacity benefit applications in each quarter of each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231032]

Jonathan Shaw: From 2003 to 2006 the lowest geographical area for which figures are available was at a district level. From 2006 to date the lowest geographical area for which figures are available is at benefit delivery centre (BDC) level.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the completion date of the reassessment of incapacity benefit recipients via work capability assessment. [231509]

Jonathan Shaw: In the Green Paper 'No-one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility', Cm 7363, we proposed a process for migrating existing incapacity benefit claimants onto the employment and support allowance. As part of that process we proposed the application of the work capability assessment. The consultation period for this Green Paper ended on 22 October and we will be publishing our response to the consultation as soon as possible. We would expect the process of migration to be completed by the end of 2013, if we decide to proceed as proposed.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228087]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department for Work and Pensions was established in 2001. The core Department does not currently employ any inspectors. Details of any inspectors employed by its predecessor Departments is not available.

The Rent Service, an Agency of the Department, employs 311 rent officers. As part of their duties rent officers carry out inspections of properties to assess property rental rates in relation to housing benefit claims.

The Rent Service was established in 1999, prior to this rent officers were employed by local authorities. The number previously employed by local authorities is not available.

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE), a non-departmental public body, employs health and safety inspectors and security inspectors. The numbers are shown in the following table:

1 April each year	*Health and safety inspectors*	*Security inspectors*
1998	1,473	0
2008	1,366	13

Notes:
1. All figures quoted are full-time equivalents.
2. Transfers of staff between inspection bodies have caused some fluctuations in the number of health and safety inspectors over the period covered by this question—in particular, the transfer of 99 FTE inspectors to the Office of Rail Regulation on 1 April 2006.
3. Security inspectors work in HSE's Nuclear Directorate and transferred to HSE, from what was the Department for Trade and Industry, on 1 April 2007.

New Deal for Lone Parents

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of leavers from the New Deal for Lone Parents Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [230560]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 23 October 2008]:* The information requested is shown in the following tables.

Number and proportion of leavers (spells) from new deal for lone parents into sustained employment by Jobcentre Plus region, cumulative data to February 2008

	Sustained employment	*Proportion of known and unknown destinations (percentage)*	*Proportion of known destinations (percentage)*
Scotland	57,170	43.3	46.9
North East	33,190	45.1	48.7
North West	71,640	43.3	46.8
Yorkshire and the Humber	52,960	44.6	48.4
Wales	35,940	43.4	47.2
West Midlands	40,070	41.3	45.1
East Midlands	29,550	46.6	50.9
East of England	31,790	41.3	45.9
South East	45,250	43.7	47.8
London	47,120	29.9	33.6
South West	44,670	44.5	48.8
Region unknown	3,760	41.4	48.4
Total	493,100	41.8	45.7

Number and proportion of leavers (spells) from new deal for lone parents into sustained employment by Jobcentre Plus district, cumulative data to February 2008

	Sustained employment	*Proportion of known and unknown destinations (percentage)*	*Proportion of known destinations (percentage)*
Ayrshire, Dumfries, Galloway and Inverclyde	8,430	42.7	46.6
Edinburgh, Lothian and Borders	9,020	44.1	47.9
Glasgow	8,220	39.4	42.5
Lanarkshire and Dumbarton	7,390	42.3	45.6
Forth Valley, Fife and Tayside	11,820	45.6	49.5
Highlands, Islands, Clyde Coast and Grampian	12,290	44.4	48.2
Tees Valley	9,760	46.8	50.1
South Tyne and Wear Valley	12,560	44.1	47.5
Northumbria	10,860	45.0	48.9
Cheshire, Halton and Warrington	5,660	44.0	47.9

Number and proportion of leavers (spells) from new deal for lone parents into sustained employment by Jobcentre Plus district, cumulative data to February 2008

	Sustained employment	Proportion of known and unknown destinations (percentage)	Proportion of known destinations (percentage)
Cumbria and Lancashire	15,730	44.3	48.1
Merseyside	18,560	41.5	44.5
Greater Manchester Central	13,970	42.0	45.4
Greater Manchester East and West	17,720	45.5	49.2
South Yorkshire	13,220	45.3	49.3
North and East Yorkshire and The Humber	15,040	45.3	50.2
West Yorkshire	24,680	43.7	47.0
South Wales Valleys	8,600	44.0	47.7
South East Wales	9,450	46.2	50.0
North and Mid Wales	9,730	41.9	46.4
South West Wales	8,160	41.5	44.8
Birmingham and Solihull	8,030	34.4	38.4
Coventry and Warwickshire	4,670	43.7	47.4
Staffordshire	7,940	47.0	50.9
Black Country	11,440	40.4	43.7
The Marches	8,000	45.0	48.8
Derbyshire	6,830	44.5	48.2
Lincolnshire and Rutland	5,720	47.9	52.6
Nottinghamshire	7,430	44.4	48.7
Leicestershire and Northamptonshire	9,570	49.2	53.8
Essex	10,950	37.8	42.3
Norfolk	4,270	44.5	48.7
Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire	9,050	44.2	48.8
Cambridgeshire and Suffolk	7,510	42.0	46.7
Hampshire	12,980	46.5	50.4
Kent	12,630	41.4	45.8
Berks, Bucks and Oxfordshire	8,690	45.5	48.8
Surrey and Sussex	10,940	42.0	46.4
City and East London	3,340	29.1	32.3
Central London	4,140	26.5	30.0
Lambeth, Southwark and Wandsworth	6,070	29.9	33.1
South London	15,180	31.5	35.5
North and North East London	9,460	28.1	32.0
West London	8,940	31.4	35.0
West of England	8,370	40.9	45.2
Cornwall and Devon	16,540	44.2	48.5
Gloucestershire and Wiltshire	10,600	46.4	50.6
Somerset and Dorset	9,160	46.4	51.2
District unknown	3,770	41.4	48.4
Total	493,100	41.8	45.7

Notes:
1. Immediate destination is measured within two weeks of leaving new deal, using information from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate

Plain English

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231124]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department of Work and Pensions submitted and obtained the Crystal Mark for 47 products in 2005, 65 in 2006, 48 in 2007 and 19 in 2008.

The Department of Work and Pensions may also have asked the Plain English Campaign to edit products for which the Department did not want the Crystal Mark but details of these are not held.

From August 2008, plain English editing and accreditation have been procured from the Plain Language Commission and details of all the products sent for editing or editing and accreditation are recorded.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has spent on Plain English Campaign training courses in each year since 2005. [231232]

Jonathan Shaw: The Department of Work and Pensions do not hold information on the cost of training costs provided by Plain English Campaign in previous years centrally and this could be obtained only at a disproportionate cost.

From August 2008, plain English training has been procured from the Plain Language Commission and details of the cost will be available centrally.

Rural Areas

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of which of his Department's public service agreements rural proofing of departmental policies is stipulated. [230743]

Mr. McNulty: Rural proofing of departmental policies is not stipulated in either of the Department's public service agreements—PSA 8: maximise employment opportunity for all, or PSA 17: tackle poverty and promote greater independence and well-being in later life.

The policies that support these Government outcomes are, however, rural proofed as part of the ongoing policy development and maintenance processes.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was overpaid in benefits through *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error in the category of (i) full-time earnings, (ii) part-time earnings, (iii) dependants, (iv) capital, (v) income, (vi) living together as husband and wife, (vii) identity errors, (viii) address errors, (ix) housing, (x) benefits, (xi) abroad, (xii) hospitalisation, (xiii) maintenance, (xiv) non-dependants, (xv) prison and (xvi) any other category in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [226224]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available in the exact manner requested or at all for 1997-98 and 1999-2000. The available information responds to the Member's request as far as is possible and has been placed in the Library.

The available information can also be found in the National Statistics reports on Fraud and Error in the Benefit System available at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fraud_error.asp

Tax Allowances: Pensioners

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many pensioners in *(a)* Leeds West constituency, *(b)* Leeds Metropolitan District and *(c)* the UK are receiving the 25 pence age allowance. [220713]

Ms Rosie Winterton: The available information is in the following table.

State pension claimants getting age addition as at September 2007

	Number
Leeds West Parliamentary constituency	3,400
Leeds Local Authority Area	30,000
Great Britain	2,608,700

Notes:
1. Data is taken from 5 per cent. extracts of the Pensions Strategy Computer System, therefore figures are subject to a degree of sampling variation. They are also adjusted to be consistent with the overall caseload from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.
2. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
3. Local authorities are allocated using the Office for National Statistics postcode directory.

Unemployment

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what capacity his Department has to react quickly in the event of a rapid increase in unemployment in a particular economic sub-region. [230616]

Mr. McNulty: Jobcentre Plus offers a proactive service which can respond flexibly to increases in unemployment in a particular area. For example, when Jobcentre Plus is notified of an upcoming redundancy situation in a particular locality, it makes contact with the employer to find out more about the scale and timing of the redundancies and to offer support relevant to the employer's and employee's needs. A range of support can be provided including information about alternative jobs and how best to source them; matching employees to current vacancies; offering on-site job shops and fairs; helping people draw-up CVs and brush-up their jobsearch skills; providing information about in and out of work benefits/tax credits; and facilitating the process of taking jobseeker's allowance claims where this is needed.

Jobcentre Plus works with partners such as the Learning and Skills Council, Skills Development Scotland, and the Department for Children, Education, Lifelong Learning and Skills (Wales), local development agencies and business organisations to ensure a co-ordinated response. Where a redundancy situation is particularly large relative to the size of the local labour market, additional rapid response funding is available, alongside funding from partner organisations, to provide additional help such as an individual skills analysis to help identify transferable skills and gaps; job-focused training to help individuals develop vocational skills; and an action fund to overcome individual barriers to work.

Many people who experience redundancy find alternative work quickly, but individuals who need to make a claim for jobseeker's allowance are provided with support to help them maintain their attachment to the labour market and look for work effectively. Most jobseeker's allowance claimants find another job quickly—over half of people making a new claim leave jobseeker's allowance within three months and three quarters within six months. In addition to mainstream services and programmes, specialist support is also available including help with literacy, numeracy or language skills through the Learning and Skills Council's Employment Skills Programme; access to programme centres which provide help with jobsearch skills, confidence and motivation and 'soft' skills associated with the world of work; and fast-tracking to the new deal for those that need it.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to monitor rapid fluctuations in unemployment levels on a *(a)* national and *(b)* regional level. [230617]

Mr. McNulty: Information on unemployment at national and regional level is published monthly by the Office for National Statistics. Latest figures show that in the most recent period unemployment has risen nationally on both the ILO and claimant measures and the trends at regional level have been broadly similar.

Unemployment Benefits: Interviews

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many work-focused interviews have been conducted in each month since their introduction, broken down by region. [231470]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves.

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many work focused interviews have been conducted in each month since their introduction, broken down by region. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are unable to provide information prior to April 2006. The tables in the annex provide the total number of Work Focused Interviews that have taken place monthly since April 2006, by region.

Annex:

Jobcentre plus—Incapacity benefit/Lone parent WFIs

Periods	*East of England*	*East Midlands*	*London*	*North East*	*North West*	*Scotland*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*West Midlands*	*Yorks and Humber*
April 2006	7,638	6,511	14,118	5,693	12,520	9,517	8,230	6,091	5,300	7,117	8,137
May 2006	9,066	8,209	15,661	6,774	16,885	12,865	10,066	7,904	6,747	8,714	10,366
June 2006	11,851	10,743	21,340	9,225	21,175	15,769	13,267	10,675	9,018	11,584	13,522
July 2006	9,047	8,142	16,834	7,291	16,750	11,885	9,570	8,609	7,424	9,075	10,973
August 2006	10,580	9,548	19,583	8,803	20,406	17,008	11,530	9,671	8,604	10,951	13,388
September 2006	9,767	9,054	19,000	7,978	18,899	12,624	10,992	8,300	7,991	10,416	11,607

Jobcentre plus—Incapacity benefit/Lone parent WFIs

Periods	*East of England*	*East Midlands*	*London*	*North East*	*North West*	*Scotland*	*South East*	*South West*	*Wales*	*West Midlands*	*Yorks and Humber*
October 2006	9,557	9,157	18,533	7,812	18,500	13,495	9,888	8,170	8,016	10,197	11,456
November 2006	12,740	11,734	24,481	9,837	24,961	17,491	13,862	10,795	10,332	13,587	14,471
December 2006	6,956	6,589	12,059	5,773	13,908	9,380	7,257	5,958	5,952	7,314	8,421
January 2007	11,739	10,580	20,109	10,115	22,414	16,957	12,219	9,896	10,008	11,673	13,214
February 2007	10,657	9,430	19,310	8,866	20,944	15,356	11,321	9,129	9,061	10,991	12,535
March 2007	13,019	11,426	25,852	10,933	26,819	19,650	14,754	11,470	11,486	14,663	14,995
April 2007	9,923	8,737	20,223	8,778	20,792	14,700	11,067	8,168	9,026	11,633	11,572
May 2007	12,796	11,304	25,602	10,500	26,642	20,788	14,315	10,749	11,429	14,117	14,275
June 2007	10,585	9,998	23,674	9,613	23,901	17,172	12,861	9,818	10,302	13,265	12,842
July 2007	10,491	9,681	22,193	9,682	23,328	16,018	12,790	9,654	10,416	12,751	12,953
August 2007	12,438	11,410	24,673	12,166	28,029	22,129	13,982	11,170	12,670	15,481	15,499
September 2007	11,041	9,981	23,910	10,999	24,669	16,000	13,341	9,915	10,999	13,269	14,019
October 2007	10,551	9,277	21,187	10,692	22,959	16,209	11,839	8,882	10,725	12,738	13,551
November 2007	13,858	12,431	26,867	13,416	29,045	20,352	15,591	11,411	12,647	16,296	16,707
December 2007	7,773	6,759	14,866	7,633	16,711	12,023	8,544	6,521	7,189	9,329	9,957
January 2008	16,679	14,748	32,001	16,474	35,270	26,055	19,018	13,872	15,102	19,500	20,274
February 2008	11,575	10,349	21,235	12,130	24,490	17,228	12,669	9,553	10,932	13,821	14,476
March 2008	9,446	9,042	20,055	10,504	20,419	15,323	11,890	8,653	9,055	11,499	11,618
April 2008	7,345	5,755	17,403	5,223	13,024	8,007	9,038	6,064	5,629	10,008	8,750
May 2008	8,459	7,248	23,252	6,688	15,348	11,070	11,778	7,617	6,259	10,692	10,113
June 2008	7,817	6,697	21,236	5,850	14,562	10,014	11,061	6,553	6,015	10,430	9,571
July 2008	10,260	8,751	25,425	7,779	18,446	11,988	13,782	8,830	7,416	12,383	12,369
August 2008	7,486	6,682	19,077	5,778	14,705	11,067	10,206	6,891	5,707	9,958	8,772
September 2008	9,058	7,670	23,706	6,823	16,070	9,691	12,658	7,685	6,114	11,406	10,706
Total	310,199	277,643	633,465	269,828	622,590	447,831	359,387	268,673	267,572	354,858	371,108

Notes:

1. The table includes all incapacity benefit and lone parent work focused interviews conducted between April 2006 and September 2008 (latest available data) broken down by month and Region.

2. There was a database prior to April 2006 called the Activity Based Information database (ABI). However, this database only included limited information on adviser interviews. For 2003/04 and 2004/05 only new deal appointments were included. In 2005/06 more advisory appointments were included. However they were not as comprehensive and wide ranging as the ABM data.

Source:

Jobcentre Plus Activity Based Management (ABM) database.

Vocational Training: Expenditure

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department spent on retraining programmes for new employees in each of the last 10 years. [231833]

Jonathan Shaw: Information on the cost of retraining programmes for new hires in each of the last 10 years is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Bankruptcy: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many individuals in each *(a)* age cohort and *(b)* London borough filed for bankruptcy in 2007; and if he will make a statement. [232373]

Mr. McFadden: The number of bankruptcies in 2007 by age cohort, and separately, by London borough can be seen in tables 1 and 2 below.

Table 1

Age group	*2007*
Under 25	3,108
25 to 34	15,492
35 to 44	19,259
45 to 54	12,527
55 to 64	7,070
65 and over	2,504
Unknown ages	4,507
Total	64,467

Table 2

London borough	*2007*
Barking and Dagenham	228
Barnet	270
Bexley	168
Brent	186
Bromley	272

Table 2

London borough	*2007*
Camden	227
City of London	14
City of Westminster	193
Croydon	266
Ealing	201
Enfield	231
Greenwich	283
Hackney	224
Hammersmith and Fulham	155
Haringey	232
Harrow	150
Havering	230
Hillingdon	195
Hounslow	186
Islington	239
Kensington and Chelsea	141
Kingston upon Thames	109
Lambeth	261
Lewisham	273
Merton	109
Newham	230
Redbridge	208
Richmond upon Thames	150
Southwark	241
Sutton	138
Tower Hamlets	237
Waltham Forest	210
Wandsworth	175
Total	6,632

Credit

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will take steps to reduce consumer borrowing; and if he will make a statement. [232754]

Mr. Thomas: The Government have no plans to intervene in markets to reduce consumer borrowing. Restricting access to credit risks driving low income consumers to use illegal lenders. In other economies where controls exist the incidence of illegal lending is higher than in the UK.

The vast majority of consumers benefit from access to credit. Most manage their debts responsibly and are in control of their finances. However, for the minority who experience problems managing credit, the Government are providing support in form of measures to promote access to affordable credit and free debt advice.

In addition, the Consumer Credit Act 2006 has provided stronger protections for consumers. The OFT will now apply a more rigorous test of a firm's fitness to hold a consumer credit licence, including taking into account any evidence of irresponsible lending.

Debts

John Battle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory -Reform when the Ministerial Group on over indebtedness last met; when the next meeting will be held; and if he will make a statement. [233110]

Mr. Thomas: The Government take the issue of over-indebtedness extremely seriously. Ministerial discussions of credit and debt issues are taking place in many forums such as the National Economic Council and the cross-Government work on the housing market, including the mortgage rescue scheme.

The Ministerial Group on over-indebtedness agreed the Government's strategy on over-indebtedness in 2004. It provides direction and approval of the Government's annual report, 'Tackling Over-indebtedness', that has been issued since 2005. The group has found it effective to conduct its business by paper rather than physically meeting.

Departmental Internet

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on the upkeep of his Department's website in 2007-08; and how many people visited the site in that year. [229363]

Mr. McFadden: The main cost elements of the upkeep of the Department's website are:

The Rhythmyx content management system (CMS). The CMS is used by staff across the Department and cost £1,029,474.83 in 2007-08.

Provision and maintenance of the site's search engine facility by a third-party supplier, Open Objects. In 2007-08 this cost £15,784.21

The Department for Business website (www.berr.gov.uk) received a total of 10,107,460 visits from 6,589,815 unique visitors in the period 1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many page hits from how many visitors the departmental website received in the 2007-08 financial year. [231378]

Mr. McFadden: In the 2007-08 financial year, www.berr.gov.uk received 34,781,332 page views from 6,589,815 unique visitors.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years of age were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228760]

Mr. McFadden: The number of people who were recruited into BERR from its creation in June 2007 to 24 October 2008 is as follows:

Number of entrants aged over 55 = 122;

Number of entrants aged over 60 = 15.

These represent people recruited through external recruitment campaigns, other Government Department transfers, secondments, loans and machinery of Government changes.

The percentage represented by direct entrants through external recruitment campaigns is as follows:

Number of new recruits aged over 55 = 4 per cent. (five);

Number of new recruits aged over 60 = 6.6 per cent. (1).

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many staff from his Department are to be redeployed to the Department of Energy and Climate Change. [230623]

Mr. McFadden: The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but approximately 500 posts will be redeployed from BERR.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what personal training courses at public expense he has undertaken since his appointment. [230961]

Mr. McFadden: My noble Friend the Secretary of State has had some training on how to use one of the BlackBerry devices issued by the Department.

Fireworks

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his policy is on prohibition of the public sale of fireworks. [233038]

Mr. Thomas: The Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997 prohibit the supply of fireworks to anyone under the age of 18. They also prohibit the supply of any fireworks which do not meet British standard 7114, certain banned fireworks and the supply of category 4 fireworks to non-professionals. The under-18s are prohibited from possessing fireworks in a public place by the Fireworks Regulations 2004.

The 2004 regulations also require that anyone who wishes to supply fireworks all year round must apply to their local licensing authority for a licence to do so and must pay the appropriate fee. Details of the number of licences issued or withdrawn for non-compliance are not held centrally.

We will continue to keep the regulations and their enforcement under review.

Fireworks: Injuries

Mr. Evans: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people were injured by fireworks in each of the last 10 years. [234279]

Mr. Thomas: The Department estimates that around 1,000 people are injured by fireworks each year. This average is based on figures collected up to 2005 which we continue to use to inform our safety campaigns to target those most vulnerable to injury e.g. young children injured by sparklers.

The injury figures up to 2005 are as follows:

	Number
2005	906
2004	1,135
2003	976
2002	918
2001	1,239
2000	897
1999	961
1998	711

New Businesses: Greater London

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many new businesses were started in each London borough in 2007; how many of them received Government funding during that year; and if he will make a statement. [232372]

Mr. McFadden: The latest available figures for new businesses are for 2006 (based on businesses with turnover over £60,000 registering for VAT). The figure for each London borough was as follows:

VAT registrations in London and in each London borough, 2006

	Number of new businesses
London Government Office Region	34,825
Barking and Dagenham	370
Barnet	1,490
Bexley	560
Brent	1,135
Bromley	1,015
Camden	1,925
City of London	1,385
Croydon	960
Ealing	1,350
Enfield	865
Greenwich	600
Hackney	990
Hammersmith and Fulham	1,000
Haringey	790
Harrow	835
Havering	635
Hillingdon	845
Hounslow	900
Islington	1,345
Kensington and Chelsea	1,205
Kingston upon Thames	585
Lambeth	985
Lewisham	635
Merton	830
Newham	620
Redbridge	830
Richmond upon Thames	1,000
Southwark	1,090
Sutton	525
Tower Hamlets	1,180
Waltham Forest	615
Wandsworth	1,370
Westminster	4,375

The Government support new businesses in the capital in the main through the London Development Agency (LDA). In 2007, the LDA provided support estimated at over £6.2 million to more than 1,500 new businesses in the form of direct finance, subsidised financial and other support or advice.

Oleg Deripaska

Norman Baker: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform on how many occasions *(a)* officials and *(b)* Ministers in his Department have had discussions on business enterprises with (i) Oleg Deripaska and (ii) Nathaniel Rothschild since 1 January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [229956]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 27 October 2008]:* I am not aware of any occasions of *(a)* officials or *(b)* Ministers in BERR having had discussions on business enterprises with (i) Oleg Deripaska and (ii) Nathaniel Rothschild since 1 January 2007.

Retail Trade: Competition

Mr. Drew: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform when he expects the Competition Commission to publish its final report following its consultation on proposals to improve competition in the grocery market. [232574]

Mr. Thomas: The Competition Commission (CC) published its final report on the UK groceries sector on 30 April this year. As part of its follow up on proposals to establish an ombudsman, the CC is currently undertaking an informal consultation with interested parties. Written submissions were provided last month, and the CC is now arranging a series of meetings with interested parties. Subject to responses, the CC plans to publish for wider consultation a final order on the Groceries Supply Code of Practice and undertakings in relation to the ombudsman shortly.

Street Trading

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps the Government plan to take to address illegal street trading. [232815]

Mr. Thomas: Government have no plans at this time to make changes to the legislation governing street traders.

Local authorities already have powers to designate which of their streets are prohibited to street trading, which require street trading licenses and which require consents. Unlawful trading is an offence punishable by a fine of up to £1,000, and a street trading licence may be revoked if its terms are breached. Some local authorities have also sought further powers to seize goods through private legislation.

In addition, Trading Standards have existing and extensive powers to tackle trading in dangerous or counterfeit goods.

However, Government are currently conducting a Review of Street Trading and Pedlary to see if further changes to the national legislative framework are needed. The Department has commissioned research from the University of Durham and this is due to conclude in November. We hope to be in a position to publish the final report and a Government statement on next steps early in the new year.

Street Trading: Licensing

Mr. Chope: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what his estimate is of the number of valid pedlars' licences in England. [233178]

Mr. Thomas: *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* The information requested is not held centrally and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

However, as the hon. Member will be aware, the Department is currently conducting a review of street trading and pedlary and has commissioned some research from Durham university. The researchers have made a rough estimate that between 3,000 and 4,500 certificates are issued each year in Great Britain. This estimate is extrapolated from a limited number of police command units that participated in the research. Therefore the numbers should be treated as best estimates only.

Trade: Madagascar

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what the monetary value of trade between the UK and Madagascar was in each of the last five years. [233970]

Mr. Thomas: Data on recorded trade in goods with Madagascar are shown in the following table:

£ million

	UK exports of goods to Madagascar	*UK imports of goods from Madagascar*
2003	16.6	6.0
2004	15.5	9.3
2005	15.5	6.6
2006	25.8	4.2
2007	32.2	7.2

Source:
HMRC Overseas Trade Statistics

Estimates of trade in services are not available for the full five years. ONS data published in the UK Balance of Payments Pink Book 2008 were:

£ million

	UK exports of services to Madagascar	*UK imports of services from Madagascar*
2006	10	7
2007	16	10

UK Trade and Investment: Marketing

Mr. Malins: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much UK Trade and Investment spent on branded golf balls in the last three years. [232194]

Mr. Thomas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* In the last three years, UKTI has spent £12,030.50 on branded golf balls.

UK Trade and Investment: Public Appointments

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform who sits on the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation's *(a)* Defence Advisory Group and *(b)* Security Advisory Group; what companies or interests each represent; and how long their appointments last. [227138]

Mr. Thomas: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 293W.

Sir Kevin Tebbit, chairman of Finmeccanica UK, has now been formally selected as chairman of the Defence Advisory Group and will serve for three years. The process to select a chairman of the Security Sector Advisory Group has begun. 13 members have been selected, on the basis of the expertise that they personally bring to speak with authority and experience of security exports, and they will serve for two years as do members of other UKTI advisory groups. Information on individual members of the security group is considered to be personal information, and is withheld for that reason.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Abortion

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House whether she plans to provide Government time on the Floor of the House to debate abortion during *(a)* Session 2008-09 and *(b)* Session 2009-10; what representations she has received on the matter since July 2008; and if she will make a statement. [233913]

Chris Bryant: Plans for debates will be announced throughout the Session by my right hon. and learned Friend the Leader of the House in the usual way. I understand the interest in this issue and I am aware that for many years the matter of abortion has been raised from the Back Benches.

My right hon. and learned Friend has had no official meetings on this specific issue since July 2008.

The Government have no plans to legislate.

Parliamentary Resources Unit

Mr. Maude: To ask the Leader of the House pursuant to the Answer to the hon. Member for Bassetlaw (John Mann), of 13 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 846-47W, on the Parliamentary Resources Unit, how much has been paid to *(a)* the Parliamentary Labour Party and *(b)* Computing for Labour, through the Department of Resources and its predecessors in each year since 2003-04. [233882]

Chris Bryant: From November 2007 a total of £15,681.25 has been paid to the parliamentary Labour party from parliamentary allowances for the messaging service provided for Members by Vodafone:

	£
2007-08	10,700.25
2008-09 (to date)	4,981.00

The amounts paid to Computing for Labour as subscriptions for software that is used for responding to constituents' correspondence and other constituency casework for each year since 2003-04 are as follows:

	£
2005-06	897,427
2006-07	974,161
2007-08	1,087,530
2008-09 (to date)	743,412

Figures for 2003-04 and 2004-05 are not available.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

10 Downing Street: Catering

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether the 10 Downing Street canteen has a policy on using genetically-modified (GM) foods; and whether GM ingredients are used by the canteen. [233362]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office supports the public sector food procurement initiative.

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234709]

Kevin Brennan: The Cabinet Office has a small quantity of Airwave radio terminals to aid with response/recovery from incidents and to liaise with other Airwave users within the UK.

Government Departments: Art Works

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the report produced by Sotheby's on the valued art and antiques within the Whitehall estate. [233497]

Kevin Brennan: It is not the intention to place the Sotheby's report on valued art and antiques in the Library as this contains information which would be detrimental to the security of these valuable assets.

Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Cabinet Secretary takes to ensure that special advisers' access to premium services are cancelled when special advisers take leave from their employment to engage in party political activity. [233365]

Kevin Brennan: The rules on special advisers' involvement in political activities are set out in the 'Code of Conduct for Special Advisers'.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster whether special advisers in 10 Downing Street are part of the Downing Street Political Office. [233367]

Kevin Brennan: No. As has been the practice under successive Governments, staffing and associated costs for the Political Office are met from party funds.

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the Written Ministerial Statement of 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 99-102WS, on special advisers, what the cost of *(a)* national insurance employer contributions and *(b)* expenses relating to special advisers was in 2007-08. [233648]

Kevin Brennan: National insurance employer contributions incurred on behalf of special advisers and costs of any expenses claimed by individual special advisers are not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Prime Minister: Location

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the estimated budget is for the move of the Prime Minister's operations from 10 Downing Street to 12 Downing Street. [233361]

Kevin Brennan: Figures for the financial year 2008-09 will be available after the end of the financial year, once the Cabinet Office accounts have been audited.

Written Questions

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster if he will place in the Library a copy of the Cabinet Office guidance on answering round robin parliamentary questions. [233800]

Kevin Brennan: In their response to the Third Report of Session 2003-04 from the Public Administration Select Committee, the Government made clear that while individual Departments may liaise with each other when they receive the same question, this co-ordination

> "does not cut across the line of ministerial accountability which is that it is for individual Ministers to decide on the final content of an answer to a Parliamentary Question".

The Cabinet Office provides advice to other Government Departments on this basis.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

British Energy

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he have made of the value of the Government's holdings in British Energy. [232043]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In the context of EDF's proposed takeover of British Energy (BE), HMG have given an irrevocable commitment to sell its stake in BE at the cash offer price of 774p per share, which would raise £4.4 billion for the Nuclear Liabilities Fund. HMG consider the offer price to be value for money for its stake.

Centre for Alternative Technology

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will review the Government decision in respect of funding for the WISE project at the UK Centre for Alternative Technology in Machynlleth. [232177]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Minister for Trade, Investment and Consumer Affairs to the hon. Member for Blaenau Gwent (Mr. Davies) on 22 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 1976W.

Climate Change Bill

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will publish an updated regulatory impact assessment for the Climate Change Bill. [234716]

Joan Ruddock: An updated impact assessment for the Climate Change Bill will be published following Royal Assent, and will reflect the final content of the Bill.

Community Energy Saving Programme

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects the first householders to receive assistance from the Community Energy Saving Programme; what estimate he has made of his Department's expenditure on the programme in financial year 2008-09; and if he will make a statement. [234664]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* As the primary legislation for the Community Energy Savings Programme is still under consideration in the House it would be inappropriate to comment about possible commencement dates at this stage.

The actual cost of the energy efficiency measures householders will receive will be borne by the electricity generators and suppliers, which we estimate will be around £350 million over the period of the programme.

The departmental expenditure on this programme is in the form of staff costs, to cover both the setting up and management of the programme.

Departmental Liability

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change on what dates his Department has informed the House of the creation of contingent liabilities relating to his Department or its non-departmental public bodies. [232728]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Secretary of State has not informed the House of any such liabilities since 3 October. As part of the separation of DECC from BERR and DEFRA, the Department will be considering what contingent liabilities may exist, and will reflect these in the resource accounts where appropriate.

Departmental Manpower

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the annual staffing cost of his Department. [228262]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The annual staffing cost will be agreed once negotiations on the machinery of government changes with BERR, DEFRA and HMT are complete. The new Department (DECC) will consist of posts taken from the existing Departments for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and from

Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, (DEFRA). The detail is still being worked on, but the Department of Energy and Climate Change will comprise roughly 900 posts, approximately 500 from BERR and 400 from Defra.

Departmental Secondment

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which organisations employ the members of staff working in his Department who are seconded from outside the Civil Service; and how many employees are seconded from each. [228300]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* The Department for Energy and Climate Change was created on 3 October 2008 and as yet information on final staff numbers are not available and have not been agreed. This information can be released when formalised.

Electricity Generation

Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost of generating 2 MW of power by *(a)* nuclear generation, *(b)* coal-fired generation, *(c)* gas-fired generation and *(d)* wind generation. [233327]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The generation cost of different technologies are measured in terms of levelised costs and are presented on a £ per megawatt hour basis. The Government have carried out analysis on generation costs in some detail in recent years to inform policy decisions. These estimates have been published as part of the Energy Review (2006) and Nuclear White paper (2008). Latest updates to those estimates suggest the following costs associated with generating 1 MWh of electricity, assuming a €35/tCO_2 price for carbon:

	£/MWh
Gas fired generation	52
Coal—fired generation	51
Nuclear generation	38
Wind (onshore)	72
Wind (offshore)	92

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers. The numbers quoted in the table represent levelised costs estimated as part of the Energy White Paper exercise, updated for fossil fuel prices used in the Government's analysis underpinning the Renewable Energy Strategy. In reality, there are large uncertainties and ranges around these figures.

Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he plans to publish the next Energy Markets Outlook. [231252]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: I hope to publish the next Energy Markets Outlook before the end of this year.

Energy Supply: Meters

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* electricity and *(b)* gas customers who temporarily disconnected themselves from their supply to credit prepayment meters which had been installed because of arrears in the latest period for which information is available; and if he will make a statement. [232193]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* The Office of Gas and Electricity Markets (Ofgem) monitors, and publishes information about, gas and electricity disconnections and the incidence of debt among customers. However, it is not possible for Ofgem or the Department to provide data about, or estimates of, self-disconnection by prepayment meter customers or self-restrictions on use of gas and electricity by credit customers. By its nature, this behaviour is very difficult to measure.

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what evidence his Department has received on the economic case for the roll-out of smart meters to domestic properties; and on what basis the Government have made the assessment that the case is questionable. [232515]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: BERR held a consultation on energy billing and metering in August 2007:

www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/whitepaper/consultations/billing-metering/page40854.html

Among other things, this sought views on the Government's expectation that smart meters would be provided to all business and domestic customers over the next decade. Around 100 responses were received from a wide variety of stakeholders. The responses can be viewed at:

www.berr.gov.uk/whatwedo/energy/whitepaper/consultations/billingmetering/consultationresponses/page43790.html.

BERR also commissioned an independent appraisal of the costs and benefits of smart meter options which is available at:

http://www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45997.pdf.

In April 2008 the Government published its response to the consultation:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45996.pdf

together with a consultation impact assessment on roll-out of smart meters to all domestic consumers:

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45794.pdf

The latter, in the case of central estimates, did not indicate a positive case for roll-out. However, there was considerable uncertainty about the costs and benefits, so the Government response invited views on the impact assessment and set out a programme of work leading to a decision point later in 2008. Throughout this period, BERR officials worked closely with stakeholders to develop the overall evidence base and commissioned two independent consultancy studies to review some of the numbers and assumptions in the April 2008 impact assessment.

Although the detail of the impact assessment has not yet been finalised, work in progress suggests that, under central scenarios, there is now a positive, high level case for a domestic roll-out of smart meters. The Government therefore announced on 28 October 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1515, their plans to roll out smart meters to all domestic customers. The final impact assessment will be published soon.

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 731-4W on energy: metering, if he will publish the economic impact assessment to which reference is made. [232198]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The economic impact assessment referred to was published in April 2008 and is available at

www.berr.gov.uk/files/file45794.pdf.

Since the answer referred to in the question, the Government have announced their plans to roll out smart meters to all domestic customers—28 October 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, column 1515.

Energy: EC Action

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings Ministers and officials from his Department have had with the Government of the Czech Republic to discuss the energy and climate change priorities of the Czech presidency of the European Union. [231594]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None.

Energy: Prices

Helen Southworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take steps to regulate the price cost ratios operated by fuel and energy suppliers. [232571]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Where possible, effective competition rather than price regulation is the preferred way to ensure a fair deal for consumers.

The preliminary findings of Ofgem's recent investigation into the gas and electricity supply markets concluded that these markets are competitive, although it did identify some groups of consumers that are not receiving the full benefits of competition. Ofgem is currently consulting on actions needed to ensure that all UK consumers benefit fully from competitive energy markets.

The Office of Fair Trading monitors fuel markets and its previous investigations into the supply of petrol and diesel have concluded that these markets are competitive. Indeed, current competition among supermarkets has contributed to a fall in the average price of unleaded by more than 8p/l in just two weeks. Where the OFT has identified issues that could restrict competition, such as in the market for bulk domestic liquefied petroleum gas, it has sought to remove them.

Fuel Poverty

Mr. Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent to raise awareness of fuel poverty in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the UK in each of the last three years. [234272]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 10 September 2008]*: Owing to the diverse and multifaceted approach taken in raising awareness of fuel poverty, it is not possible to provide accurate figures of the type requested.

While we do not have figures which reflect the total spend on raising fuel poverty awareness, since 2000, the Government have spent £20 billion on fuel poverty benefits and programmes. Action to raise awareness of fuel poverty has been carried out by a range of Government Departments, co-ordinated by DECC and its predecessor Departments through a variety of media. This includes the cross-government "Keep Warm Keep Well" campaign providing vulnerable people with information on the health benefits of keeping warm in winter.

Alongside the work of these Departments, awareness of fuel poverty is raised through delivery agencies and local partnerships working alongside Eaga plc. (who manage the Warm Front Scheme), local authorities, energy suppliers and National Energy Action, the fuel poverty charity and its subsidiary company Warm Zones Ltd.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much Eaga made from charging installers of energy saving equipment which was purchased using Warm Front vouchers in each of the last five years. [232978]

Joan Ruddock: The £300 rebate scheme began in 2006. Eaga plc met the costs relating to the development and introduction of this initiative. For each voucher redeemed, the Department agreed that Eaga would receive a £42.55 administration fee. This fee is paid for by each installer registered on the scheme and contributes to ongoing administration, IT and management costs. The following table illustrates the number of vouchers redeemed, by the scheme year and the totalled administration fees recovered, since this time.

Scheme year	*Redeemed vouchers*	*Recovered admin fee (£)*
2006-07	1,977	84,121.35
2007-08	64,702	2,753,070.10
2008-09	46,531	1,979,894.05
Total	113,210	4,817,085.50

It is important to note that, once a contractor is registered on the £300 scheme, they benefit from a Government backed administrative process guaranteeing promotion of their services. This improves their respectability, reduces advertising costs and guarantees work they would not necessarily have otherwise received.

Mr. Letwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether Eaga is permitted to sell Carbon Emissions Reduction Target credits to energy companies in cases where those credits arise from Warm Front grant-aided energy saving installations. [232979]

Joan Ruddock: Yes, Eaga is permitted to sell carbon credits derived from measures undertaken through the Warm Front scheme. Funding generated through this process supplements the Warm Front budget.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost was of work carried out by Warm Front contractors for households who secured a Warm Front grant in the latest year for which figures are available. [233638]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 April 2007 and 30 March 2008 the Warm Front scheme assisted 268,900 households. The average grant spend over this period was £1,301.60.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change by what criteria his Department decides which companies and suppliers can contract with Warm Front. [233641]

Joan Ruddock: Eaga, the Warm Front scheme manager, is obliged, under the contract held with DECC, to comply with EU procurement regulations for all contracted works. The regulations mandate that offers to tender are placed in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU).

Installers interested in working on the Warm Front scheme must enter a competitive tender process. Fundamental to the process are an interrogation of installer policy, financial standing, compliance with instructions and professional qualification. Policies interrogated include:

Health and safety

Quality assurance

Customer care

Value for money

Training

Sustainability and corporate social responsibility

Environmental and waste reduction

Qualification to professionally recognised standards, i.e. Corgi, NICEIC, BBA, etc dependant on measure(s) bid for.

Eaga is currently undertaking the above tender process for installers to commence working on the scheme in June 2009.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the administration costs of the Warm Front scheme have been in each year of its operation. [233642]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the administration costs and relative percentage of total funding in delivering the Warm Front Scheme under Eaga's management.

	Administration cost	
Scheme year	*£ million*	*Percentage of total budget*
2005-06	18.1	10
2006-07	28.6	9
2007-08	31.5	9

Prior to 2005, the scheme was administered by two agencies (Powergen and Eaga), as such, the total cost figures for this period are unavailable.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Bexley

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much has been spent on grants under the Warm Front scheme in Bexley since its introduction. [229439]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 June 2000 and 31 October 2008 £1,992,735.43 was spent on works undertaken through the Warm Front scheme in the London borough of Bexley.

Eaga plc continue to provide regular updates of Warm Front activity through secure constituency websites which MPs may access at any time.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: West Midlands

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Warwick and Leamington constituency received a grant through Warm Front in the latest year for which figures are available. [233635]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 April 2007 and 30 March 2008 the Warm Front scheme assisted 36,530 households in the West Midlands. Over the same period 287 households were assisted in the constituency of Warwick and Leamington.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was provided in Warm Front grants in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Warwick and Leamington constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [233636]

Joan Ruddock: Between 1 April 2007 and 30 March 2008, £59,045,105.49 was spent on delivering energy efficiency measures to households through the Warm Front Scheme in the West Midlands. Over the same period, £393,471.65 was spent on delivering measures to households in the constituency of Warwick and Leamington.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many suppliers in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Warwick and Leamington constituency had contracts with Warm Front in the last 12 months. [233637]

Joan Ruddock: DEFRA secured national contracts with the Grahams Group and Plumb Centre to provide heating hardware for the Warm Front scheme. Integral to this process was quality of service, quality of hardware and value for money. All insulation material is secured privately by installers registered on the scheme.

In the Midlands, the Grahams Group has distribution depots in Coventry, Wolverhampton and Newcastle-under-Lyme. Plumb Centre's head office is in Leamington Spa and in the Midlands distribution centres are located in Stoke-on-Trent, Coventry, Birmingham, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Sutton Coldfield, Smethwick, Cannock and Solihull.

Mr. Plaskitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change in what proportion of cases the Warm Front grant did not meet the full cost of work carried out which qualified for a Warm Front grant in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)* Warwick and Leamington constituency in the latest year for which figures are available. [233639]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number and proportion of households assisted by the Warm Front scheme in *(a)* the West Midlands and *(b)*

Warwick and Leamington constituency where the required works exceeded the grant maxima and a contribution was requested, in the period 1 April 2007 to 30 March 2008.

	West Midlands	*Constituency of Warwick and Leamington*
Assisted households	36,530	287
Households requested to contribute to the cost of works	11,412	74
Proportion of contribution requests	0.31	0.26

Insulation: Grants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioner households in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire have received grants or other assistance to improve their home insulation in each year since 1996-97; and how much public funding was spent on such grants in each such year. [232590]

Joan Ruddock: The following tables illustrate the number of pensioner households receiving insulation measures through the Warm Front Scheme and associated costs in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* Hertfordshire by scheme year from 2005-06 onwards. We do not hold figures for measures prior to this period.

Hemel Hempstead

	£	*Number*
2005-06	4,784.58	12
2006-07	17,019.33	47
2007-08	31,651.92	75
2008-09	31,887.86	80
Total	85,343.69	214

Hertfordshire

	£	*Number*
2005-06	90,956.38	237
2006-07	254,975.73	656
2007-08	258,598.37	653
2008-09	162,671.91	409
Total	767,202.39	1,955

Since 2002, pensioners in Great Britain have also benefited from subsidised and free insulation measures, including loft and cavity wall insulation, under the supplier-funded Energy Efficiency Commitment (EEC). During the period 2002 to 2008, 5 million households received insulation measures through the EEC. Suppliers were required to focus 50 per cent. of their efforts on a priority group of vulnerable and low-income households, including pensioners on qualifying benefits. However, suppliers were not required to provide a precise break-down of the types of households within the priority group that received assistance, or geographical information as to where measures were installed.

The current phase of the EEC, now known as the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target, operated in similar terms to the EEC. However, supplier activity levels are more than double that of EEC and will benefit some 6 million households by 2011. 40 per cent. of these will be from the priority group, which now includes all pensioners over 70.

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many pensioner households in York have received grants or other assistance to improve their home insulation in each year since 1996-97; and how much public money was spent on this in each such year. [230257]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of pensioner households assisted by the Warm Front Scheme in the City of York and Vale of York constituencies between 1 June 2005 and 30 September 2008. (Prior to this period the scheme was administered by a different agency and the data held by the current administrator are not sufficient to provide an accurate response to the question.)

Scheme year	*Number of pensioner households assisted*	*Associate cost (£)*
2005-06	261	181,193
2006-07	684	625,807
2007-08	747	898,336
2008-09 (to date)	279	545,445
Total	1,971	2,250,781

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Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has held on the establishment of grant schemes to assist low income owner occupiers to insulate older properties without cavity walls. [233665]

Joan Ruddock *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* Warm Front, which is the Government's main scheme for the eradication of fuel poverty, is always seeking to asses and incorporate new technologies which can improve the energy efficiency of vulnerable households. Those homes without cavity walls present a typical case of hard to treat properties, not least because the present alternative forms of insulation available are prohibitively expensive to deliver. My Department continues to work with stakeholders to ensure that all viable options are considered and incorporated into the scheme where appropriate.

Natural Gas

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of UK gas demand will be met by imported natural gas in 2008. [233928]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: Net UK import dependence of gas for the year to August 2008 (defined as total imports as a proportion of gas output from the National Transmission System) was 27 per cent. The Department's latest oil and gas production projections—available online at:

https://www.og.berr.gov.uk/information/bb_updates/chapters/Section4_17.htm

suggest 26 per cent. net gas import dependence for the UK in 2008 as a whole.

Nuclear Power: Decommissioning

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what provision he has made for the costs of *(a)* decommissioning and *(b)* future nuclear power stations; and if he will make a statement. [231791]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are committed to meeting the costs of decommissioning the existing civil nuclear legacy sites by the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority (NDA). This is funded through a mixture of grant in aid and the NDA's commercial income. Over time the contribution from commercial income will decline as the NDA's operational units enter their decommissioning phase. The discounted lifetime cost of delivering the NDA's decommissioning and clean up programme, which is expected to take over 100 years to complete, is estimated at £40.7 billion. With regard to the costs of future nuclear power stations, it will be for energy companies to fund, develop and build new nuclear power stations in the UK, including meeting the full costs of decommissioning.

Nuclear Power: Northern Ireland

Dr. Alasdair McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* meetings and *(b)* discussions he and his predecessor with responsibility for nuclear energy has had with the Minister for the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Investment in the Northern Ireland Executive on the implications for electricity consumers in Northern Ireland of the Government's decision on the future of nuclear generation in Great Britain in the last 12 months; and what correspondence has been undertaken between his officials and those of his predecessor department and officials in the Northern Ireland Executive on the matter over that period. [228680]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: None, but officials in the Department have been in regular touch with officials in the Northern Ireland Executive on matters relating to new nuclear including on the justification process, the strategic siting assessment process and criteria and the Energy Bill.

Plutonium

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions Ministers or officials from his Department, or its predecessors, have had with officials from the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority on the development of plutonium management and security policies since 2006. [228374]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Officials have an ongoing dialogue with the NDA on the development of plutonium management strategies.

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to meet the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to discuss the next steps in the plutonium management strategy. [228643]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: A date is not fixed yet but I hope to meet with the NDA in the coming weeks. However my officials are working closely with it on this matter.

Renewable Energy

Stephen Hesford: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made towards the Government's target of generating 10 per cent. of electricity supply from renewable energy sources by 2010; and what percentage of electricity supply generated from renewable sources in the latest period for which information is available. [232477]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: In 2000, the Government set a target for 10 per cent. of UK electricity capacity from renewable sources by 2010. In order to meet our 10 per cent. renewable electricity target, we estimate that we would need to generate just over 40 TWh of renewable electricity by 31 December 2010. Current estimates show that we potentially have over 45 TWh of renewable generation that is already operational, is under construction or is consented and awaiting construction.

According to the Digest of United Kingdom Energy Statistics (DUKES) 2008, renewables provided 5.0 per cent. of UK electricity generation at the end of 2007 (4.9 per cent. from Renewables Obligation (RO) eligible sources). Since the introduction of the RO in 2002, renewable electricity generation capacity has almost tripled (2.2 per cent. in 2002 compared with 4.9 per cent. in 2007). Further information on the generation of electricity from renewable sources can be found in chapter 7 of DUKES 2008:

http://stats.berr.gov.uk/energystats/dukes08_c7.pdf

Renewable Energy: Finance

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has had with renewable energy developers on the level of private capital investment for renewable energy; and if he will make a statement. [233126]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has regular discussions with both the investor community and renewable energy developers on financing of renewable energy projects in the UK.

The Government are working to create the right business environment for investment in renewable energy. We recognise that investment in energy infrastructure requires significant capital investment and a supportive regulatory framework. Investments in renewable energy projects are long-term, and we believe the costs are manageable and spread over time, with the biggest costs in the run up to 2020 and beyond. We have committed to a comprehensive package of reforms to speed up renewables deployment in the UK and provide a stable long term climate for investment in renewables.

Despite the current economic climate, the UK remains a good place to invest in green energy. Many key projects are still planning to go ahead—for example, last month's announcement that Masdar will invest in the 1,000 megawatt (MW) London Array offshore wind farm. When built, this should be able to supply 1 per cent. of the UK's electricity needs. This month, RWE Innogy has announced that it has acquired a 50 per cent. share of the 500 MW Greater Gabbard offshore wind farm.

Also this month, as announced during the Prime Minister's trip to the Gulf, a new £250 million UK-Qatar Clean Technology Investment Fund will be set up to develop and deploy low carbon energy and technology. This will boost venture capital funding for early-stage UK low carbon companies and technologies and help address our climate change objectives.

River Severn: Tidal Power

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when the next *(a)* parliamentary and *(b)* regional forums on the River Severn tidal energy project will be held. [232679]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The next parliamentary forum will be held on 1 December 2008 at 3pm in London at the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, 1 Victoria Street Conference Centre. The next regional forum is being held on 2 December 2008 in either Newport or Cardiff.

It is intended that both forums be co-chaired by myself and Jane Davidson, Welsh Assembly Government Ministers for the Environment, Sustainability and Housing.

Sellafield

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the proposal to indemnify the new parent body organisation to manage the Sellafield Site Licence Company against uninsurable liability claims was considered by the European Commission under state aid rules prior to finalising the agreement with the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority. [232171]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We are not aware of any such consideration by the European Commission.

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 76W, on Sellafield, on what dates between 14 July and 6 October 2008 Ministers or officials of his Department met officials of the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority to discuss the indemnification of the successful bidder for the Parent Body Organisation chosen to manage Sellafield; if he will place minutes of all such meetings in the Library; and what meetings his Department and its predecessor have had with the European Commission on the compliance with state aid rules of the Government accepting an indemnification for Sellafield. [233737]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There were no meetings between 14 July and 6 October 2008 between the Nuclear Decommissioning Authority and Ministers or officials of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform about the indemnity for the successful bidder for the Sellafield Parent Body Organisation.

There have been no meetings with the European Commission on this issue. As a normal commercial arrangement involving no subsidy for the new Parent Body Organisation, the proposed indemnity does not raise any State aid concerns.

Solar Power

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the UK's capacity to build integrated solar photovoltaics; and if he will make a statement. [228368]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Department has committed over £41 million to support the photovoltaic industry since 2000 through the Major Demonstration PV programme and field trials. The photovoltaic industry currently benefits from the £86 million Low Carbon Buildings programme and electricity generated is also eligible for support under the Renewables Obligation (RO). In addition, there are wider measures supporting development of Solar PV including grants for R&D through the Technology Programme and the Microgeneration Certification Scheme which sets out product and installation standards for solar PV at the smaller scale. As a result of these programmes and wider measures the UK Solar PV industry has developed strengths in the design and manufacture of building integrated products.

We recently announced that we will implement a feed-in tariff for small-scale generation up to 3 MW alongside the Renewables Obligation for large-scale projects.

Steve Webb: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to increase levels of investment in UK solar photovoltaic manufacturing. [228488]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: As part of the Manufacturing Strategy the Government announced their intention to create an Office of Renewable Energy Deployment. This Office will help deliver the necessary step-change in the deployment of renewable energy in the UK to meet the 2020 target. It will provide a one-stop shop for dealing with the range of delivery issues, including supply chain, planning, grid and other matters, across the range of deployable renewable energy technologies. It will also help to raise the domestic and global profile of manufacturing companies in the supply chain and identify potential opportunities working with the Manufacturing Advisory Service.

The Manufacturing Strategy contained other measures which include plans for the Government to work with the CBI and others to develop a Low Carbon Showcase to promote low carbon products to a global marketplace. The Government will come forward in 2009 with a Low Carbon Industrial Strategy that will look at how business can adapt and make the most from the growth in the low carbon economy and what the Government's role should be.

Warm Front Scheme

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the total value of grants made under *(a)* the Warm Front and *(b)* the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme was in each of the last five years. [231276]

Joan Ruddock: The Warm Front spend since the scheme's inception in 2000 is outlined as follows:

Scheme year	*Approximate total spend/budget (£ million)*
2000-01	72
2001-02	197
2002-03	163
2003-04	164
2004-05	166
2005-06	192
2006-07	320
2007-08	350

Fuel poverty is now a devolved issue and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does not hold the appropriate data for the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme in Wales (HEES Wales).

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many *(a)* applications for grants and *(b)* grants were made under (i) the Warm Front and (ii) the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme there have been in each of the last five years. [231278]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates, by scheme year, *(a)* the number of applications made to the Warm Front Scheme from households both eligible and not eligible for assistance, and *(b)* the number of households assisted in each year, since 2003-04.

Warm Front Scheme (England all)

Scheme year	*Total applications made*	*Total households assisted*
2003-04	[1]182,852	188,974
2004-05	[1]199,423	208,084
2005-06	221,259	173,184
2006-07	355,987	253,079
2007-08	390,621	268,900

[1] Figures do not include those applications made in the Eastern region where the scheme was being delivered by Powergen.

Fuel poverty is now a devolved issue and the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) does not hold the appropriate data for the Home Energy Efficiency Scheme in Wales (HEES Wales).

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 12 November 2008

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council House Transfers

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much her Department has set aside for gap funding for large-scale voluntary housing transfers in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; how many applications have been made in 2008-09 to date; and by which authorities and for how much in each case. [234334]

Mr. Iain Wright: We expect that gap funding grant payments of up to £120 million will be made to registered social landlords (RSLs) in support of large scale voluntary transfers in 2008-09. Gap funding grant letters for 2009-10 have yet to be issued, and there are a number of schemes that require a review to take place in accordance with gap funding grant terms. The outcome of these will determine the amount required to be set aside.

There have been no new housing transfer applications requiring gap funding from local authorities in 2008-09.

Eco-Towns: Essex

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment she has made of the effect on the regeneration plans at Harlow of building a proposed eco-town at north-east Elsenham; [234835]

(2) what assessment she has made of the effect on local emissions levels of developing an eco-town at north-east Elsenham. [234836]

Mr. Iain Wright: As set out in the written statement on eco-towns on 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 10WS, we have published an 'Eco-towns Sustainability Report' (SA). This has been carried out by Scott Wilson and evaluates the likely impact of proposals, including north-east Elsenham, on the environment, local economy and community. Copies of the SA will be deposited in the House Library shortly and are available on the Department's website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingsupply/ecotowns/

For each location we are considering whether any further issues need to be evaluated at the strategic level as part of the Stage 2 consultation, which runs until 19 February 2009.

Homelessness

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many rough sleepers there were estimated to be in England in each year since 1990. [234504]

Mr. Iain Wright: Annual rough sleeping figures have been collected since 1998 and are shown in the following table. These show the significant reductions in rough sleeping over the past 10 years.

Rough sleepers in England

	Number
1998	1,850
1999	1,633
2000	1,180
2001	703
2002	596
2003	504
2004	508
2005	459
2006	502
2007	498
2008	483

Housing Companies

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many local housing companies there are; where each is established; how many houses each has built to date; how many each plans to build; and in each case what proportion of the total will be available for rent. [234333]

Mr. Iain Wright: The local housing company (LHC) model is being developed through the pilot programme of 14 local authorities, which is being led by English Partnerships, the national regeneration agency. The pilots are based in Leeds, Sheffield, Wakefield, Nottingham, Newcastle, Sunderland, Dacorum, Harlow, Peterborough, Bristol, Plymouth, Wolverhampton, Manchester and Barking and Dagenham.

The programme will provide the basis for assessing the scope for individual local authorities to set up LHCs, as well as the range of benefits that they may be able to secure for their local communities, such as increased housing provision across a range of tenures and wider regeneration benefits. We anticipate that the first LHC will be established as a result of the programme in the near future.

Housing: Construction

Mr. Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the cost to *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* registered social landlords of building housing for rent; and what estimate she has made of the cost of borrowing to finance such building in each case. [234323]

Mr. Iain Wright: Through the Housing Corporation's affordable housing programme for 2007-08 the average total scheme cost was £150,200 for a social rented unit of which £59,700 was social housing grant. The remainder of the total cost is generally covered by borrowing or through registered social landlords' own resources. We have made no estimates on the costs of borrowing to finance the building of these homes.

We hold no central records on costs of building social rented homes by local authorities or on estimates of borrowing costs.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build homes were constructed by arm's length management organisations in each year since 2001. [234927]

Mr. Iain Wright: Records are held of local authority new build homes but not those built by their arms length management organisations.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build homes were constructed by registered social landlords in each year since 1997. [234928]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new affordable homes built in England by registered social landlords (RSLs) for each year since 1997-98. The figures include social rent and intermediate affordable new build homes; they exclude acquisitions.

New homes built by registered social landlords in England

	New homes built by RSLs
1997-98	27,890
1998-99	26,360
1999-2000	22,260
2000-01	19,560
2001-02	19,550
2002-03	18,920
2003-04	20,580
2004-05	23,500
2005-06	28,470
2006-07	30,690

Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS).

Not all RSL housing is provided by new build completions as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2006-07, an additional 5,500 RSL homes in England were provided by acquisitions which are not included in the aforementioned figure.

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many new build homes constructed by registered social landlords were made available for rental by social tenants in each year since 1997. [234929]

Mr. Iain Wright: The following table shows the number of new social rented homes built in England by registered social landlords (RSLs) each year since 1997-98. The figures exclude acquisitions.

New homes built for social rent by registered social landlords in England

	New homes built by RSLs for social rent
1997-98	23,690
1998-99	22,430
1999-2000	19,520
2000-01	17,300
2001-02	17,510
2002-03	16,590
2003-04	16,600
2004-05	16,830
2005-06	18,350
2006-07	19,080

Source:
Housing Corporation Investment Management System (IMS)

Not all RSL social rented housing is provided by new build completions as some supply can come from acquisitions. In 2006-07, an additional 2,360 social rented homes in England were provided by RSL acquisitions which are not included in the aforementioned figure.

Housing: Low Incomes

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what percentage of households are in *(a)* social housing and *(b)* the private rented sector in each of the principal seaside towns in England. [234937]

Mr. Iain Wright: Table 19 on page 50 of the report 'England's Seaside Towns—A Benchmarking Study', published by CLG in early November, shows the percentage of households that were in *(a)* social housing and *(b)* the private rented sector in each of the 37 principal seaside towns in England in 2001. This is the most up to date information on housing tenure for the seaside towns. The report can be found at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/citiesandregions/englishseasidetowns.

A copy of the table follows for information.

Table 19: Tenure in England's principal seaside towns, 2001 (ranked by owner occupation rate)

	Percentage of households		
	Owner-occupiers	*Social rented*	*Private rented sector*
Whitley Bay	84	9	7
Sidmouth	81	10	9
Whitstable/Herne Bay	80	8	12
Southport	79	8	14
Clacton	79	9	13
Greater Worthing	78	10	12
Burnham-on-Sea	78	11	11
Isle of Wight	77	10	13
Swanage	76	11	13
Exmouth	76	11	13
Greater Blackpool	75	9	16
Bognor Regis	75	10	15
Deal	75	12	13
Greater Bournemouth	74	11	15
Dawlish/Teignmouth	74	9	17
Minehead	74	12	13
Torbay	74	8	18
Weymouth	73	13	14
St Ives	73	11	15
Southend-on-Sea	73	12	15
Weston-super-Mare	73	12	16
Morecambe/Heysham	73	8	20
Newquay	71	10	19
Lowestoft	70	16	14
Thanet	70	13	17
Bridlington	69	14	17
Hastings/Bexhill	69	14	18
Eastbourne	69	16	16
Folkestone/Hythe	68	14	19
Falmouth	67	15	18
Whitby	66	18	16
Scarborough	66	15	19
Ilfracombe	66	11	23
Greater Brighton	63	15	22
Penzance	62	18	20
Skegness	62	15	23
Great Yarmouth	62	24	15

Table 19: Tenure in England's principal seaside towns, 2001 (ranked by owner occupation rate)

	Percentage of households		
	Owner-occupiers	*Social rented*	*Private rented sector*
Seaside towns	72	12	16
North East	64	28	9
North West	69	20	11
Yorkshire and the Humber	68	21	11
East Midlands	72	18	10
West Midlands	70	21	10
East	73	17	11
London	57	26	17
South East	74	14	12
South West	73	14	13
England	69	19	12

Source:
Census of Population

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* HM Revenue and Customs and *(b)* the Valuation Office Agency (i) have and (ii) will have access to data from the National Register of Social Housing. [235080]

Mr. Iain Wright: Neither HM Revenue and Customs nor the Valuation Office Agency currently have access to data from the National Register of Social Housing (NROSH). Any request for access to NROSH from a Government Department would be considered on its specific and individual merits.

Multiple Occupation: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many conversions from houses of multiple occupation to flats have taken place in each of the 37 principal seaside towns in England in each of the last five years. [235186]

Mr. Iain Wright: The information requested is not held centrally.

JUSTICE

Community Orders

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community sentences have been completed in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [234041]

Mr. Malik: The following table shows the number of community sentences that terminated in England and Wales for 2005-07. It also provides the percentage split for the reason of termination, including the percentage that completed successfully (those that ran their full course and that terminated early for good progress).

The improvement in positive terminations for non-community orders reflects the fact that these are pre-Criminal Justice Act 2003 sentences and were only given for offences committed before 4 April 2005. Negative terminations tend to occur earlier in the life of an order, leaving a higher proportion of these orders to terminate successfully over the course of time.

The information contained in this table can be found in chapter 5 of Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2007 located online at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Terminations of community sentences by reason, England and Wales

	Number of persons and percentages		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Community order			
Ran their full course	[1]—	39	47
Terminated early for:			
Good progress	[1]—	13	10
Failure to comply with requirements	[1]—	24	22
Conviction of an offence	[1]—	14	12
Other reasons	[1]—	10	10
All community orders (=100%) (number)	[1]—	70,577	113,829
Drug treatment and testing order			
Ran their full course	32	50	59
Replaced by conditional discharge order	0	0	0
Terminated early for:			
Good progress	7	9	8
Failure to comply with requirements	23	19	17
Conviction of an offence	33	18	12
Other reasons	6	5	4
All DTTOs (=100%) (number)	8,088	3,992	630
Community rehabilitation order			
Ran their full course	58	69	77
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	1	0
Terminated early for:			
Good progress	10	8	6
Failure to comply with requirements	8	7	6
Conviction of offence	19	11	6
Other reasons	5	4	4
All CROs (=100%) (number)	50,745	31,216	9,380
Community rehabilitation order element of community punishment and rehabilitation order			
Ran their full course	45	59	65
Replaced by conditional discharge order	1	0	0
Terminated early for:			
Good progress	12	11	6
Failure to comply with requirements	13	10	12
Conviction of offence	23	14	10
Other reasons	6	5	7
All CPROs =100%) (number)	12,607	9,000	3,171
Community punishment order			
Specified hours completed	68	62	46
Failure to comply with requirements	11	14	21
Conviction of an offence	11	12	10
Other change in circumstances	3	3	3
Warrant unexecuted	2	3	5
Other reason	5	6	16
All CPOs (=100%) (number)	49,081	23,762	9,967
Community punishment order element of community punishment and rehabilitation order			
Specified hours completed	60	54	40
Failure to comply with requirements	13	15	20
Conviction of an offence	18	18	14
Other change in circumstances	3	4	3
Warrant unexecuted	2	2	3

Terminations of community sentences by reason, England and Wales

	Number of persons and percentages		
	2005	*2006*	*2007*
Other reason	5	7	19
All CPROs(=100%) (number)	13,919	6,288	2,510

[1] Community orders that commenced in 2005 had not had sufficient time to terminate normally since they were only introduced on 4 April 2005.

Note:

The figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much was spent on salaries for press and communications officers in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* its agencies in each of the last three years. [231339]

Maria Eagle: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Press and communications officers cover a wide range of tasks including internal communications, intranet and internet operations, event organisation, marketing, publication production and stakeholder relations.

Ministry of Justice spend on salaries for press and communications officers in the last three years

			£
	Communications officers	*Press officers*	*Total*
2005-06			
Ministry of Justice HQ	[1]—	[1]—	[1]2,626,355.00
HMCS	[1]—	[1]—	[1]217,420.90
OPG	[1]—	[1]—	[1]139,662.29
National Archives	104,306.00	130,250.00	234,556.00
Tribunals[2]	n/a	n/a	—
Boundary Commission for England[3]	—	—	—
Boundary Commission for Wales[3]	—	—	—
JAC[4]	—	—	—
JCO[2]	n/a	n/a	—
LSC	678,410.80	132,797.41	811,208.21
Land Registry	453,013.00	95,310.00	548,323.00
2006-07			
Ministry of Justice HQ	1,736,925.00	723,488.00	2,520,413.00
HMCS	400,527.39	112,492.00	513,019.39
OPG	[1]—	[1]—	[1]167,863.53
National Archives	184,966.00	139,325.00	324,291.00
Tribunals	210,009.70	37,415.74	247,425.44
Boundary Commission for England[3]	—	—	—
Boundary Commission for Wales[3]	—	—	—
JAC[4]	—	—	—
JCO	198,332.12	95,715.23	294,047.35
LSC	628,223.17	164,631.60	792,854.77
Land Registry	451,883.00	110,993.00	562,876.00
2007-08			
Ministry of Justice HQ	2,286,346.00	1,560,439.00	3,846,785.00
HMCS	438,671.88	158,653.00	597,324.88
OPG	[1]—	[1]—	[1]173,205.50
National Archives	166,115.00	135,398.75	301,513.75
Tribunals	190,223.24	55,455.34	245,678.58
Boundary Commission for England[3]	—	—	—
Boundary Commission for Wales[3]	—	—	—
JAC[4]	—	—	—
JCO	211,776.20	107,582.31	319,358.51
LSC	668,696.22	175,230.95	844,92717
Land Registry	481,017.00	99,994.00	581,011.00

[1] Joint budget

[2] Formed in April 2006

[3] No press office and all queries are dealt with by its secretariat

[4] No dedicated resource

Electoral Commission: Powers of Entry

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Electoral Commission will be required to give prior notice in order to use the proposed new powers of entry contained in the Political Parties and Elections Bill. [233377]

Mr. Straw: The Political Parties and Elections Bill provides two powers for the Electoral Commission to enter premises. The first power is contained in paragraph 1(5) of schedule 1 to the Bill, and replicates, with one important change, the existing power in section 146(3) of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000. This provides that, at any reasonable time, the Commission may enter premises for the purposes of carrying out its functions. Having entered under the power, the Commission may inspect documents relating to the income and expenditure of the individual or organisation whose premises the Commission has entered. It may also make copies.

The existing power in section 146(3) enables the Commission only to enter the premises of registered political parties, recognised third parties who campaign in elections, and permitted participants who campaign in referendums. In addition to these categories of people, paragraph 1(5) will allow the same power also to be used in relation to regulated donees (including MPs, candidates and their election agents).

Paragraph 3 of schedule 1 to the Bill provides that the Electoral Commission may apply to a justice of the peace for a warrant to enter premises. In order to obtain a warrant the Commission must demonstrate, on oath, to a justice of the peace that there are reasonable grounds for believing that a person has committed an offence or contravened a restriction or requirement and that an earlier request for documents has been made and not complied with. If these requirements are satisfied a justice of the peace can issue a warrant allowing a constable, together with any other person named in the warrant, to enter premises. Such a warrant may authorise the use of reasonable force, the searching of premises and taking of documents and may require a person named in the warrant to provide an explanation about any of the documents that are the object of the search.

No prior notification of the Commission's intention to enter premises would be required. The person would be notified at the time of the Commission's entry to the premises.

As my right hon. Friend the Member for North Swindon (Mr. Wills) and I have made clear, we have heard the force of opinion in the House on the issue of the Commission's powers and we have proposed measures to address these concerns for debate at Committee stage on 11 November.

HM Courts Service: Per Capita Costs

Mr. Chope: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 849W, on the Courts Service, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of 5,800 hours of court time at 2008 prices. [232521]

Bridget Prentice: The cost to the public purse of 5,800 hours of court time is estimated to be approximately £1,700,000. This is based on current costings for court time in the magistrates courts.

Legal Aid

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average processing time for legal aid applications was *(a)* in total and *(b)* in each of the smallest geographical areas for which information is available in each quarter of each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [230437]

Bridget Prentice: The information in the following tables shows the average time taken to process applications in working days.

For civil legal aid, the figures include the overall average time to process civil applications from the point of receipt to final decision. This time will include any appeal activity in the event of any refused applications. It will also include time taken to deal with any pre-certificate representations and/or the involvement of the LSC's Special Investigations Unit should the applicant be listed as the director of a company or their means assessment be particularly complex.

For criminal legal aid, the figures include the average time taken by the LSC itself to process applications and the time taken by Her Majesty's Court Service (HMCS) to process applications for legal aid in the magistrates courts on behalf of the LSC under a service level agreement.

The average number of days to process applications for civil legal aid in England and Wales overall, for each quarter of the most recent years for which information is available, is shown in table 1 as follows. This includes applications for a legal aid certificate only. Applications for legal help are considered by the service provider. The average processing time for applications for legal help is not recorded centrally.

Table 1: The average number of days taken by the LSC to process applications for civil legal aid certificates in the most recent periods for which information is available

	April to June	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*
2003-04	7.4	8.2	7.7	8.1
2004-05	9.3	8.6	8.4	8.1
2005-06	8.5	5.8	4.6	4.5
2006-07	4.8	6.3	8.3	5.5
2007-08	6.5	5.8	6.7	7.4

The average number of days taken to process applications for criminal legal aid is available only for applications made in the magistrates courts since the introduction of means testing in October 2006 and is shown in table 2 as follows.

Table 2: The average number of days taken by HMCS and the LSC to process applications for criminal legal aid in the magistrates courts for the most recent periods in which information is available

	April to June	*July to September*	*October to December*	*January to March*
2004-05	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2005-06	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
2006-07	n/a	n/a	3.1	2.6
2007-08	2.8	2.4	2.7	1.8
2008-09	1.6	1.5	n/a	n/a

LSC bid zones are the smallest geographical areas by which the average number of days taken to process applications for civil legal aid for each quarter of the most recent years for which information is available and is shown in table 3, which has been placed in the Libraries of the House.

Individual magistrates courts are smallest areas by which the average number of days taken to process criminal legal aid applications is available. The average time taken to process the applications for each quarter available since means testing was introduced in October 2006 is in table 4, which has also been placed in the Libraries of the House.

There are a small number of irregular figures contained within the tables. This could be for reasons such as one-off human error or where the application received data links back to a reopened case. These anomalous entries do not have a significant effect on the data overall and have been included for the sake of completeness.

Penalty Notices: Shoplifting

Ann Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many penalty notices for disorder were issued for shoplifting in the latest period for which figures are available. [234783]

Maria Eagle: The number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with PND for shoplifting (of goods up to a value of £200), from 2004 to 2006 in England and Wales can be viewed in the following table. Data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008. The offence of theft (retail) was added to the PND Scheme in November 2004.

Number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence theft (retail under £200), in England and Wales, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Theft (retail under £200)
2004	2,072
2005	21,997
2006	38,772

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures.

[3] The offence of theft (retail) was added to the PND Scheme in November 2004.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform: Evidence and Analysis Unit.

Prince Charles: Marriage

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library the background legal advice given to the former Lord Chancellor, Lord Falconer, in respect of the application of the Marriage Act 1949 to the marriage arrangements of Prince Charles and Camilla Parker-Bowles. [234975]

Mr. Straw: The advice in question is subject to legal professional privilege. On 24 February 2005, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WS87-88, the then Lord Chancellor made a written statement on the Government's view of the lawfulness of the marriage between HRH the Prince of Wales and the Duchess of Cornwall.

Prison Service: Cost Effectiveness

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what cashable efficiency savings HM Prison Service was required to make in the financial year 2007-08; [232645]

(2) what cashable efficiency savings were made by HM Prison Service in each of the last five years; [232646]

(3) what cashable efficiency savings HM Prison Service made in 2006-07; and from what areas these savings were delivered. [232648]

Mr. Straw: HM Prison Service delivered cash savings of £16 million during 2006-07. This was achieved through the merger of administrative functions at a new shared service centre in Newport South Wales, improvement in the level of professional expertise in procurement activities and also consolidating national procurement contracts. Additionally, the Prison Service delivered improvements in energy efficiency and waste management and produced savings from headquarters.

During 2007-08 HM Prison Service delivered cashable efficiencies of £52 million against a target for the year of £50 million. The cashable efficiencies delivered by HM Prison Service each year for the past five financial years are:

	£ million
2007-08	52
2006-07	16
2005-06	30
2004-05	34
2003-04	38

Prison Service: Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many posts in the Prison Service there are; and what projection he has made of the number of jobs in the service in 2011; [233690]

(2) how many posts in the Probation Service there are; and what projections he has made of the number of jobs in the service in 2011. [233691]

Mr. Hanson: There is currently a requirement across the Prison Service, including vacancies, for 53,717 posts. This figure does not include the National Offender Management Service headquarters. Projections for 2011 are under consideration.

The National Probation Service comprises 42 boards and trusts each of which functions as a separate employer. Employment data is supplied to NOMS in the form of full-time equivalent (FTE) staff and vacancies rather than posts since this is considered to be the most accurate workforce measure. The latest available figures show there were 20,894 FTE staff in post in the National Probation Service on 31 December 2007. In addition, there were 343.11 FTE vacancies. These figures do not include the National Offender Management Service headquarters.

NOMS is currently rolling out an IT based HR Data Warehouse to the 42 probation boards and trusts. When this is fully implemented early in 2009, NOMS will be in a position to collate FTE workforce information on a monthly basis.

Projections of staffing requirements for 2011 will be determined by the individual probation boards and trusts based on local workforce requirements and available resources. Efficiency initiatives will impact by the year 2011, however it is too early to project accurate figures.

Prisons: Crimes of Violence

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoner on staff attacks there have been at each prison in each of the last five years. [234215]

Mr. Malik: Table 1 shows incidents of prisoner on staff assaults in each of the last five years by prison.

The information set out is subject to important qualifications. The NOMS Incident Reporting System processes high volumes of data which are constantly being updated. The numbers provide a good indication of overall numbers but should not be interpreted as absolute.

Assault information is recorded at establishment level in four categories: prisoner on prisoner, prisoner on officer, prisoner on other and other (which may include non-prisoner perpetrators). The recorded incidents of assaults on prison officers are not completely exclusive to officers; establishment recording sometimes includes assaults on other prison staff in this category. Rises or falls in reported numbers from one year to the next are not a good indicator of an underlying trend for a particular prison. Additionally there have been improvements in reporting over the years, and this is reflected in the tables.

Assault data are complex and the numbers need to be interpreted with caution. Information recorded as assault incidents may involve one or many prisoners as some assault incidents may involve more than one assailant or more than one victim. Additionally in a proportion of incidents only the victim is known.

The numbers supplied refer to the number of individual assault incidents. The numbers refer to all incidents recorded as assaults; these may also include threatening behaviour, projection of bodily fluids and other non-contact events and allegations.

The category "Prisoner on Other" contains few entries but these may include prison staff as well as visitors, legal visitors, etc. For the purpose of this response the categories "Prisoner on Officer" and "Prisoner on Other" are used.

Ministers, NOMS and the Prison Officers' Association are collectively committed to ensuring that violence in prisons is not tolerated in any form. Since 2004, a national strategy has directed every public sector prison to have in place a local violence reduction strategy and since mid 2007 this has been applied to the public and contracted out estate. A whole prison approach is encouraged, engaging all staff, all disciplines and prisoners in challenging unacceptable behaviour, problem-solving and personal safety.

Table 1: Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Acklington	3	3	5	8	9
Albany	3	—	—	3	n/a
Altcourse	48	51	47	39	53
Ashfield	70	90	180	136	100
Ashwell	1	—	—	5	3
Aylesbury	15	6	17	18	14
Bedford	14	11	15	31	13
Belmarsh	52	43	35	22	22
Birmingham	59	85	99	81	78
Blakenhurst	27	56	46	34	38
Blundeston	3	4	7	7	1
Brinsford	39	34	19	10	17
Bristol	26	48	28	41	15
Brixton	52	72	50	37	41
Brockhill	6	10	14	9	3
Bronzefield	—	20	87	81	43
Buckley Hall	38	19	25	14	11
Bullingdon	23	16	17	23	24
Bullwood Hall	1	—	9	6	3
Camphill	13	9	12	5	n/a
Canterbury	9	4	4	3	4
Cardiff	11	16	19	14	6
Castington	56	57	50	46	46
Channings Wood	4	10	10	8	16
Chelmsford	16	22	37	53	21
Coldingley	1	—	1	3	8
Cookham Wood	14	5	3	1	2
Dartmoor	9	5	12	7	10
Deerbolt	6	28	33	22	34
Doncaster	28	23	26	47	29
Dorchester	4	2	10	9	9
Dovegate	48	80	35	59	43
Downview	6	8	29	9	12
Drake Hall	—	—	1	1	
Durham	34	31	42	46	58
East Sutton Park	1	1	—	—	—
Eastwood Park	13	7	21	28	8
Edmunds Hill	9	23	9	13	2
Elmley	25	21	30	17	28
Erlestoke	—	2	2	2	10
Everthorpe	2	2	10	14	13
Exeter	12	3	7	12	9
Featherstone	8	21	8	9	17
Feltham	103	173	138	118	107
Ford	3	7	5	3	4
Forest Bank	63	78	88	54	34
Foston Hall	18	8	13	28	27
Frankland	5	15	12	10	21
Full Sutton	13	12	17	14	9
Garth	11	5	7	9	9
Gartree	—	1	2	3	1
Glen Parva	29	39	31	45	56
Gloucester	17	6	13	15	6
Grendon/ Spring Hill	—	—	—	—	1
Guys Marsh	6	5	3	14	16
Haverigg	7	2	1	5	18
Hewell Grange	—	—	2	—	1
High Down	51	59	40	71	67
Highpoint	22	19	16	23	22
Hindley	27	14	32	58	48
Hollesley Bay	4	3	—	1	—
Holloway	104	108	89	111	104
Holme House	21	19	27	24	20
Hull	32	30	33	25	33
Huntercombe	19	15	15	33	24
Kingston	1	—	2	2	—
Kirkham	—	1	—	—	2
Lancaster	—	3	1	2	1
Lancaster Farms	9	28	47	56	39
Leeds	79	40	36	17	18
Leicester	11	6	7	18	7
Lewes	22	11	21	17	17
Leyhill	—	1	1	—	3
Lincoln	12	23	22	15	23
Lindholme	19	6	13	13	20
Littlehey	13	10	10	5	4
Liverpool	46	38	24	21	31
Long Lartin	5	5	15	12	15
Low Newton	16	27	31	21	20
Lowdham Grange	5	13	17	36	39
Maidstone	6	5	1	—	5
Manchester	61	63	73	65	78
Moorland	22	13	20	16	15
Morton Hall	1	3	3	5	1
Mount	13	8	12	15	21
New Hall	23	19	29	60	48
North Sea Camp	2	1	—	—	1
Northallerton	19	22	14	9	8
Norwich	25	18	18	18	1
Nottingham	16	33	15	25	47
Onley	98	15	29	32	25
Parc	59	61	50	51	53
Parkhurst	18	15	16	3	n/a
Pentonville	91	97	123	61	69
Peterborough	—	—	75	141	115
Portland	16	39	40	42	39
Preston	11	18	25	29	45
Ranby	9	3	3	17	17

Table 1: Prisoner on staff assaults

Prison name	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[1]
Reading	7	16	16	12	9
Risley	19	27	32	29	23
Rochester	16	18	23	13	4
Rye Hill	21	39	65	48	43
Send	4	—	2	3	1
Shepton Mallet	1	—	1	—	2
Shrewsbury	14	5	4	7	7
Stafford	13	7	13	14	10
Standford Hill	—	—	—	1	1
Stocken	10	8	12	7	9
Stoke Heath	20	39	56	69	76
Styal	7	12	13	32	46
Sudbury	2	—	1	1	—
Swaleside	17	16	9	11	8
Swansea	8	4	4	6	—
Swinfen Hall	9	4	10	10	9
Thorn Cross	4	1	1	4	1
Usk/ Prescoed	—	—	—	1	1
Verne	1	6	4	—	—
Wakefield	8	8	9	8	15
Wandsworth	78	86	87	38	36
Warren Hill	12	21	34	42	50
Wayland	11	9	1	9	10
Wealstun	2	—	3	2	6
Weare	11	6	4	—	—
Wellingborough	1	2	16	14	5
Werrington	24	19	19	22	12
Wetherby	14	77	72	60	37
Whatton	1	1	—	4	12
Whitemoor	15	16	19	11	22
Winchester	13	15	12	10	4
Wolds	8	13	4	9	3
Woodhill	36	39	71	68	52
Wormwood Scrubs	40	74	60	58	70
Wymott	2	—	4	4	4
Total	2,541	2,799	3,171	3,148	2,916

[1] The 2007 figures do not include the three prisons Albany, Camphill and Parkhurst where the incident recording has transferred to the NOMIS system.

Reoffenders

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the reconviction rate was for offenders attending accredited programmes in *(a)* the community and *(b)* prisons in the latest period for which information is available. [234147]

Mr. Hanson: There are positive indications that accredited programmes may be effective in reducing re-offending for offenders in the community. The re-offending rate for all offenders who had undertaken interventions was 55 per cent., based on a two-year reconviction rate. Programme completers did statistically significantly better than those who did not start or who dropped out of programmes. The rates were 38 per cent., 61 per cent. and 64 per cent. respectively.

A recent prison-based study showed that the one-year reconviction rate for both adult men and young offenders who had completed enhanced thinking skills (ETS) and reasoning and rehabilitation (R+R) interventions in prison represented a positive 2.5 percentage points difference in reconviction for adult male completers (17.0 per cent. vs. 19.5 per cent.) and a 4.1 percentage point difference for young offender completers (31.4 per cent. vs. 35.5 per cent.) compared to matched comparison groups. There was no difference in reconviction rates between programme starters and comparison groups. See tables 3 and 4:

www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/pdfs2/r226.pdf

Whitemoor Prison

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations the governor of HMP Whitemoor has received on staff morale in the last three months. [234019]

Mr. Malik: No representations have been received on staff morale in the last three months by the governor of Whitemoor.

Whitemoor Prison: Islam

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements there are for *(a)* searching and *(b)* questioning those visiting Muslim prisoners at HMP Whitemoor. [234018]

Mr. Malik: All visitors to Whitemoor are searched on entering the prison to ensure that unauthorised items are not being brought in. In conducting searches, staff are aware of religious and cultural issues and make special arrangements to accommodate these, while not compromising security. All visitors are required to confirm their identity.

Mr. Moss: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements are in place for the accommodation of Muslim prisoners at HMP Whitemoor; and what the policy of HM Prison Service is on accommodating Muslim prisoners in specific wings of the prison. [234116]

Mr. Malik: The allocation of prisoners at Whitemoor follows a careful risk assessment, taking into account individual needs, matters such as safety and security, as well as the availability of accommodation. Prison Service policy is for prisoners to be allocated to prisons appropriate to their security category; safety and security; individual needs in respect of sentence planning; as well as taking into account matters such as the continuation of family contact. It is not policy to locate prisoners in particular prisons or any part of a prison on the grounds of religion.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Contracts

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what the procedure is for allocating landscaping contracts for the Olympic games 2012 site. [234861]

Tessa Jowell: Landscaping contracts are the responsibility of the Olympic Delivery Authority and are awarded following a competitive tendering process. The Authority is a public body whose procurements are subject to the Public Contracts Regulations.

Olympic Games 2012: Health

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what research she has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on schemes to ensure a legacy of health improvement from the London 2012 Olympic games. [233435]

Tessa Jowell: An assessment of the potential health benefits of staging the 2012 Games in London was carried out in 2004 on behalf of the London Health Commission and the London Sustainable Development commission. The report is available at

http://www.londonshealth.gov.uk/PDF/Olympic_HIA.pdf

I am arranging for the report to be deposited in the Libraries of the House.

The Department of Health regional teams have commissioned Canterbury Christ Church university to conduct a systematic review to assess the potential for the games to improve public health. Findings from the research will inform the development of the wider health legacy.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what percentage of those working in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233853]

Ann McKechin: All staff in the Scotland Office are on loan from the Scottish Executive or the Ministry of Justice. Any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the policy and guidance of the parent Department.

Staff below the senior civil service (94 per cent.) can work to a flexi-time agreement and local records are kept of hours worked; 6 per cent. of all staff work part-time; and 6 per cent. work compressed hours. No staff work on job share or work from home for more than four hours per week.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since 1997. [234081]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office was established on 1 July 1999. The Office has no recorded losses of memory sticks, hard drives or desktop computers; the following have been reported as lost or stolen:

	Item	*Lost*	*Stolen*
1999-2000	Laptop	—	Yes
2000-01	None	—	—
2001-02	None	—	—
2002-03	Mobile Phone	Yes	—
2003-04	None	—	—
2004-05	None	—	—
2005-06	BlackBerry	Yes	—
2006-07	Mobile Phone	Yes	—
	BlackBerry	Yes	—
2007-08	None	—	—

Departmental Procurement

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what proportion of invoices for goods and services procured from small and medium-sized businesses were paid within 30 days of receipt by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the agencies for which his Department is responsible in 2007-08; and if he will make a statement. [226493]

Ann McKechin: The Scotland Office is unable to distinguish between different sizes of business in the payment records; the size of a business does not influence the payment process. As indicated in its annual report, in 2007-08, the Office paid 99.53 per cent. of its invoices within 30 days. The Office welcomes the recent announcement by the Prime Minister that the Government should aim to pay invoices within 10 days and is working towards this target.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Wallace: To ask the Solicitor-General when the Attorney-General plans to respond to the letter of 26 August 2008 from the hon. Member for Lancaster and Wyre on threat assessment documents allegedly left on a train. [235195]

The Solicitor-General: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 6 November 2008.

WOMEN AND EQUALITY

Departmental Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Minister for Women and Equality for which Government websites the Government's Equalities Office is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235044]

Maria Eagle: The Government Equalities Office is responsible for one website:

www.equalities.gov.uk.

Since January 2008, it has received a total of 22,783 unique visitors. The cost of maintaining this site since January was £891.83, which includes web hosting and design changes.

TRANSPORT

Aviation

Justine Greening: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what guidance he has issued to National Air Traffic Services on the use of continuous descent approach (CDA) for aircraft landing at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* all designated UK airports, with regard to (i) the distance from the airport at which CDA begins and (ii) the altitude at which CDA begins; [231710]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the proportion of aircraft using the continuous descent approach at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* all designated UK airports in each of the last four years; [231711]

(3) what assessment his Department has made of the use of the continuous descent approach (CDA) at *(a)* Heathrow and *(b)* all designated UK airports, with particular reference to (i) the distance from the airport at which CDA begins and (ii) the altitude at which CDA begins. [231755]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Aircraft landing at Heathrow have been required for a number of years, wherever practicable, to operate a continuous descent approach (CDA).

This is in line with the Government's policy of encouraging, together with the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) and NATS, the use of CDA, where airspace and safety considerations allow. The procedure seeks to reduce the noise of arriving aircraft by ensuring that aircraft remain as high as possible for as long as possible and that segments of level flight during descent, which increase engine noise, are avoided. Guidance in the form of an arrivals code of practice on the use of CDA, developed in partnership with the industry, was originally issued in February 2002. This guidance has been kept under review and a revised code was published in November 2006. The code can be accessed on the departmental website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/aviation/environmentalissues/arrivalscodeofpractice/arrivalscodeofpractice.

The original focus of the arrivals code was to promote CDA at the three London designated airports (Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted). Following the successful implementation of the code at these airports, the code has been used by NATS as a basis to promote and encourage greater use of CDA at other airports nationally and internationally. However it has to be acknowledged that local operational circumstances and restraints can vary from airport to airport. CDAs are agreed by air traffic controllers and pilots on a flight-by-flight basis, according to weather and traffic conditions. In all cases, NATS' overriding consideration is the safe and efficient operation of air traffic control (ATC) operations.

CDA performance and developments are monitored. Reports are regularly presented for review by the consultative and technical sub-committees at the three London designated airports Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted. Current CDA performance consistently averages 80 per cent. throughout the 24-hour period of operation.

Aviation: Excise Duties

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the impact on the number of flights using UK airports following the introduction of aviation duty. [232254]

Angela Eagle: I have been asked to reply.

I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to my hon. Friends, the Members for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer) and for Derby, North (Mr. Laxton) and to the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 789W.

Biofuels

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what evidence his Department has received on the incidence of bacterial contamination in biodiesel road transport fuels; if he will revise the renewable transport fuels obligation in the light of any evidence received; and if he will make a statement; [230009]

(2) what research his Department is carrying out into bacterial contamination of biodiesel fuels; and if he will make a statement; [230010]

(3) what advice his Department has issued, and to whom, on the prevention of bacterial contamination in biodiesel fuels. [230011]

Jim Fitzpatrick: It is well known that there is a greater tendency for bacterial growth in biodiesel compared to fossil diesel. Fuel suppliers are well aware of this issue and the importance of maintaining good housekeeping practices, such as the cleaning of fuel storage tanks and the use of bacterial growth inhibiting additives. The Department has not seen any evidence that bacterial growth is, in practice, creating fuel quality problems in the UK. The petroleum industry itself would have conducted the original research to develop effective additives and best housekeeping practice, and promulgates advice on this topic.

Birmingham International Airport

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether his Department has plans for the extension of the main runway at Birmingham International Airport to enable it to accommodate landing and take-off of Boeing 747s. [234025]

Jim Fitzpatrick *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: Birmingham International Airport submitted in January this year a planning application for a 405 metre extension to the existing runway, which would enable the airport to handle larger aircraft and access to more long haul destinations, including West Coast USA and the Far East.

The application is currently being considered by Solihull metropolitan borough council. Department for Transport Ministers have a quasi-judicial role in the planning process with regard to transport-related applications raised on appeal. It could, therefore, be prejudicial to comment on matters that are subject to a planning application and may come before a planning inquiry.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr. Todd: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee has consulted people with enduring mental health problems on access to free bus travel concessions. [234775]

Paul Clark: The Disabled Persons' Transport Advisory Committee did not undertake formal consultation. However, the Committee is aware of the particular concerns of people with mental illness with regard to eligibility for concessionary travel and has been in correspondence with the Mental Health Action Group on this issue.

Cycling

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he allocated to Cycling England for cycling programmes for *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 2008-09. [234302]

Paul Clark: We announced an award of £140 million to Cycling England in January this year to support local authorities and others to improve cycle provision. This raised Cycling England's budget from £10 million in 2007-08 to £20 million in 2008-09 and £60 million for each of the next two years.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information *(a)* English local authorities outside London and *(b)* Transport for London have provided to his Department about their expenditure on cycle facilities in (i) 2006-07, (ii) 2007-08 and (iii) 2008-09. [234303]

Paul Clark: This information is no longer requested of local authorities by the Department. In 2006-07, the last year for which we can supply any information, local authorities' (outside of London) best estimate of expenditure on cycling was around £36 million. Spending on cycling in London for the same period was, I understand, around £25 million.

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what lessons have been learned from the six cycling demonstration towns. [234304]

Paul Clark: The first six towns have demonstrated that while the level of investment is important, political leadership is equally vital in ensuring delivery of the right package of measures to enable cycling to take its place as a real option for many journeys. Effective links with wider policies such as the health agenda and integration with planning so that cycling is designed in from the start are also important. In just over two years cycling has increased in the towns by 25 per cent. on average.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235241]

Mr. Hoon: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 42W.

Heathrow Airport: Carbon Emissions

Mr. Randall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the additional average annual emissions arising from use of the third runway at Heathrow over the period 2020 to 2050. [234152]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Given present arrangements, the average additional annual carbon dioxide emissions arising from the use of additional capacity at Heathrow for the 60-year period 2020 to 2080 was set out in Annex B of the Adding Capacity at Heathrow Airport: Consultation Document, page 178. This was estimated at 3.0 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$) per year.

This would mean that for the 30-year period 2020 to 2050, the average additional annual carbon dioxide emissions arising from the use of a third runway at Heathrow is 3.4 $MtCO_2$, assuming no other changes.

The Government are, however, strongly committed to achieving reductions in carbon dioxide emissions and aims to do so in the most effective way. This is why we have led the debate within Europe to include all flights arriving at and departing from EU airports in the EU Emissions Trading Scheme from 2012 onwards.

Newcastle International Airport Company

Mr. Atkinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what reports he has received on the liabilities incurred by each of the seven local authorities participating in Newcastle International Airport Company in respect of payments to former members of its management board; and if he will make a statement. [234212]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Department for Transport has received no such reports. These are matters for the local authorities concerned.

Official Cars

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what role Ministers in his Department had in shortlisting companies bidding to provide electric and low carbon vehicles to public bodies under the Low Carbon Vehicles Innovation Platform. [234719]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Ministers were not involved in decisions on the shortlisting of companies bidding to provide lower carbon and all-electric vans to the public sector under the Low Carbon Vehicle Public Procurement Programme.

Olympic Games: Road Closures

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the *(a)* number of roads which will have to be closed and *(b)* periods for which such a closure would take place during shooting events held at Woolwich Army base during the London 2012 Olympics. [233747]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Any measures required on the roads around Olympic venues during the Games will be designed, consulted on and delivered by the Olympic Delivery Authority following the designation next year of the Olympic Route Network (ORN): a network of roads that will connect competition and key non-competition venues and will be used to transport athletes, officials, accredited media and other key Olympic partners to and from venues. The Department for Transport will be consulting on the roads we propose to designate as part of the Olympic Route Network later this year.

Private Roads

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the Government's policy is on unadopted roads. [234995]

Paul Clark: Under the Highways Act 1980, local highway authorities may adopt roads that they are not currently responsible for maintaining; this is a matter for local decision. Adoption of highways brings with it liability for future maintenance including the provision of surface water drainage or street lighting, as well as claims arising from the condition of the street.

The owners of properties on an unadopted road are responsible for its maintenance and the cost of bringing it up to standards suitable for adoption.

Railway Network: Greater London

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many passengers travelled into each central London overground passenger rail terminal in each year since 1997. [235676]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not publish information on passengers travelling into London stations. The Office of Rail Regulation (ORR) does, however, publish station usage statistics. These are available on the ORR website:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1529

Taxis: Disabled

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what requirements there are on licensing authorities in England outside London to change hackney carriage bylaws to require the provision of wheelchair-accessible taxis; and what guidance his Department has issued on the *(a)* timing of and *(b)* transition through these changes. [234994]

Paul Clark: The Disability Discrimination Act 1995 gave the Government the power to introduce accessibility regulations for several land-based modes of transport. Regulations have been introduced for trains and trams and for buses and coaches. However, no regulations have yet been developed and put in place for licensed taxis. Accessible taxi policies are currently a matter for individual local licensing authorities in line with general advice that the Department for Transport has issued to licensing authorities in 2002, 2004 and 2006.

However, there remains a need to improve access to taxis for disabled people and we are committed to resolving this matter in a way that delivers the outcomes that disabled people, local authorities and the taxi industry would like to see. The Department will be publishing a consultation package very shortly that will look closely at the issues involved and will seek views on the way forward.

Tolls: Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions his Department and its agencies have had with the Association of Greater Manchester Authorities on its proposals to introduce congestion charging; and whether Transport Innovation Fund funding is linked to the implementation proposal. [235007]

Paul Clark: On 9 June 2008 my predecessor awarded Programme Entry for the Greater Manchester Transport Innovation Fund proposals for a £2.78 billion package of public transport investment and a twin-cordon congestion charging scheme. In this context departmental officials have regular ongoing contact with representatives of the Greater Manchester authorities.

Walking to School Initiatives

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the Walking to Schools initiative's budget was spent in 2007-08. [233607]

Paul Clark: Nearly 3,300 state-funded primary schools in England applied for a Walking to School Initiatives grant and 3,249 were successful. They were awarded a total of £2.58 million, which represented 51.6 per cent. of the Walking to School Initiatives budget in 2007-08.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Alcoholic Drinks

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the current levels of alcohol consumption by serving members of the *(a)* Army, *(b)* Navy and *(c)* Royal Air Force; and what assessment he has made of the need to reduce alcohol consumption in the armed forces. [231245]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Studies indicate that 67 per cent. of men and 49 per cent. of women in the armed forces are consuming alcohol at levels deemed hazardous to health. For both sexes, hazardous drinking was most associated with being young, single and of lower rank. All three services are well aware of the potentially harmful effects that alcohol can have and have comprehensive programmes to promote the message of sensible drinking as part of a healthy lifestyle.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* regular and *(b)* Territorial Army (i) officers and (ii) personnel of other ranks have been mobilised for service overseas within six months of completing their basic training in each year since 2003. [227876]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: Officials are collating the information requested. I will write to the hon. Member when the work is complete and place a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Liam Fox:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 20 October 2008, (Official Report, column 121W) about Regular and Territorial Army personnel who have been mobilised overseas (ie deployed on operations) within six months of completing their basic training.

Our investigations have established that this information cannot be provided for the period prior to the introduction of the Joint Personnel Administration (JPA) system for the Army in March 2007 without incurring disproportionate cost, as it would require the interrogation of thousands of individual service files. The figures for the period since the introduction of JPA are being validated by DASA (Defence Analytical Services Agency) after which it should be possible to provide a fuller answer. This validation will, however, take some months to complete.

I am placing a copy of my letter in the Library of the House.

Armed Forces: Health Services

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what evidence he has evaluated on the efficacy of decompression in the prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder; [233043]

(2) what feedback he has gathered from participants in decompression on its merits. [233044]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The decompression process is designed to be a brief 'wind-down' period for troops returning from operational theatres, and is aimed at facilitating the adjustment from the operational to the UK environment. It is not intended that it should play a major role in the prevention of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), which is a chronic disabling illness distinct to the more short-term adjustment issues that we can expect individuals to encounter in making the change from the operational to the home/family/non-operational environment.

However, if during the process an individual demonstrates any indicators of possible mental health problems, then appropriate follow-up action will be taken.

The King's Centre for Military Health Research is currently undertaking research into the merits of decompression, the results of which will be published on completion.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's housing sites with no medium-term requirement have been made available to the public on short-term leases. [234136]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: Schemes are currently in place at Innsworth and Woodbridge to rent out, on the commercial market, vacant accommodation for which there is a long-term but no medium-term requirement.

Armed Forces: Injuries

Mr. Boswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what arrangements there are for recording and classifying traumatic brain injuries to military personnel in the course of their duties; how many such injuries there were, broken down by degree of severity in each of the last five calendar years; what arrangements are made to facilitate ongoing treatment by civilian health and social services after post-traumatic rehabilitation; and if he will make a statement. [227028]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the written ministerial statements made in the House by my predecessor, the hon. Member for Halton (Derek Twigg), on 15 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 23-24WS, and 1 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 48-49WS.

Armed Forces: Insurance

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent representations he has received on the provision of insurance for members of the armed forces; from whom such representations have been received; and what response he has made in each case. [234392]

Mr. Kevan Jones: In the last two months, Ministers have received two parliamentary questions and three letters from right hon. and hon. Members about the provision of insurance for members of the armed forces.

I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 477W, to the hon. Member for North Devon (Nick Harvey) and the answer my noble Friend for International Defence and Security gave in another place on 21 October 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, columns WA89-90.

Two letters asked for details of the insurance cover available to service personnel on operations and whether they are charged higher insurance premiums than those not deployed. The responses explained that personal insurance is optional and additional to the benefits MOD provides under the Armed Forces Pension and Compensation schemes, which have recently been increased; however, MOD facilitates through commercial providers the PAX and service life insurance schemes which cover war risks and do not increase premiums for personnel on operations. In addition, MOD's Service Risks Insurance Premium Refunds Scheme contributes towards the inflated life insurance premiums which some insurers charge personnel serving on operations.

The third letter expressed concern that young members of the armed forces pay higher vehicle insurance premiums than civilians of the same age. The response explained that some brokers have special arrangements with insurers for providing motor insurance for service personnel. In particular, the Services' Insurance and Investment Advisory Panel, who are a panel of independent insurance and investment advisers specialising in advising service personnel, can arrange motor insurance cover without premium loading and offer rates that are competitive with the rates available to civilians and in many cases are cheaper. They also provide some benefits that are not normally found in policies sold to civilians.

Armed Forces: Mental Health Services

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what treatment centres are available in the north of England to servicemen and women *(a)* suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and *(b)* who have recently served in Iraq and Afghanistan; how many servicemen and women and former servicemen and women have been treated in these centres in each of the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [233583]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Within the north of England there is one military Department of Community Mental Health (DCMH), located in Catterick. DCMH Catterick is responsible for treating both regular and reserve service personnel, as out-patients, following a referral from their military general practitioner or the Reserve Mental Health Programme (RMHP) based at Chilwell. In-patient care, when necessary, is provided under contract by the Priory Group at facilities located in Darlington, Stockport, Altrincham and Bartle.

Figures on attendances at DCMHs have only been centrally recorded since the beginning of 2007 as part of the work carried out by DASA, on the Armed Forces Psychiatric Morbidity Report; figures for 2008 are currently being verified and are not available for release. In 2007 there were 720 new attendances at DCMH Catterick, of whom 521 were assessed at their first appointment to be suffering from a mental health condition. Of those 521, 10 personnel were diagnosed as suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder.

Information on the numbers of service personnel to be admitted as in-patients to the facilities named above for any cause between 2005-07 is shown as follows. Information is not held centrally on the specific diagnosis leading to their admittance.

	Admittances to in-patient care
2005	40
2006	30
2007	27

The treatment of veterans is the responsibility of the NHS and as such, with the exception of those eligible under RMHP, they do not receive treatment at DCMHs. However, the MOD does recognise that it has an expertise to offer in the diagnosis and treatment of service related mental health conditions. The Department of Health, in conjunction with the MOD, has launched five community mental health pilots targeted at veterans. Each site has a trained community veterans' mental health therapist. Veterans can access this service directly or through their GP, ex-service organisations, the Veterans' Welfare Service, or social service departments, the initiative is NHS-led and reflects NHS best practice. This will address assessment and treatment of veterans' mental health problems in the longer term. Within the north of England, a pilot is in operation at NHS Bishop Auckland General Hospital. Subject to the outcome of the evaluation, best practice will be identified and rolled out more widely across the UK.

In addition, to assist those veterans not in the catchment areas of one of the pilots, we have expanded our Medical Assessment Programme (MAP) based at St. Thomas' Hospital, London, to include assessment of veterans with mental health symptoms with operational service since 1982. The clinician in charge also provides support and advice to GPs and other civilian health professional requiring advice on the military aspects of treatment.

Armed Forces: Safety

Mrs. Humble: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what procedures are in place in the armed forces to consider and act upon recommendations following Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigations; what HSE reports were received in 2007; and what steps were taken as a result of each. [230829]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The procedures for consideration and acting upon recommendations following Health and Safety Executive (HSE) Investigations are contained within Ministry of Defence policy documentation Joint Service Publication (JSP) 815—Defence Environment and Safety Management, Annex L and JSP 375—The MOD Health and Safety Handbook, Volume 2 Leaflet 14.

Information about HSE reports received in 2007 and the actions taken is not held centrally and officials are collating the details. Once this work has been completed I will write to my hon. Friend.

Substantive answer from Bob Ainsworth to Joan Humble:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 29 October (Official Report, column 1029W) about Health and Safety Executive (HSE) investigations and reports.

In answering your question I have interpreted the phrase 'HSE Reports' to mean Crown Censures[1] or Crown Improvement Notices. None of the latter has been reported. The Ministry of Defence received two Crown Censures during January to December 2007.

The first Crown Censure followed the fatality of a Corporal as a result of injuries sustained from being crushed between two armoured personnel carriers being unloaded from a low loader at Teesport, Cleveland in March 2007. The second Crown Censure was a fatality as a result of crushing between a Multiple Launch Rocket System vehicle and a large fork lift truck at Albemarle Barracks, Northumberland also in March 2007.

As a result of these tragic incidents, investigations were carried out which have led to a revision of arrangements for assessing workplace transport risks in the MOD; specifically, improvements have been made in the following areas:

1. Safe systems of work are now in place, including carrying out risk assessments and taking action on the resulting recommendations before any work is undertaken.

2. All staff involved are properly trained and have access to sufficient information and instruction to enable them to carry out the work safely.

3. Staff with supervisory duties now receive improved training on those responsibilities.

4. Interfaces between the MOD internal organisations responsible for the delivery of vehicles and those operating the vehicle fleets have been improved.

5. Equipment maintenance practises have been reviewed and improved systems have been put in place.

[1] Crown Censure is an administrative procedure, whereby HSE may summon a Crown employer to be censured for a breach of the Health and Safety at Work Act, or a subordinate regulation, which, but for Crown Immunity, would have led to prosecution with a realistic prospect of a conviction.

Army Benevolent Fund

Mr. Gray: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Army Benevolent Fund on their ability to fund rehabilitation for military casualties from Iraq and Afghanistan. [231466]

Mr. Kevan Jones: MOD officials have regular formal and informal contact with the ABF on a range of issues, but the subject of rehabilitation has not been formally raised.

Defence Estates: Olympic Games 2012

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which parts of the Royal Artillery estates, other than those parts designated as housing, would need to be closed to enable shooting events during the London 2012 Olympics to take place at Woolwich. [233741]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Discussions between the Department for Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS), the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG) and the Ministry of Defence on hosting the shooting events at the Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich are continuing. A priority is to minimise any disruption to the army units, soldiers and their families based at Woolwich but as yet no firm decision has been made on the design of the venue so it is too early to say if any areas will need to be closed.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on the staging of the London 2012 Olympic events at Woolwich army base. [233743]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The current Secretary of State for Defence has not had any such discussions. His predecessor had several discussions with the Minister for the Olympics about the 2012 games that included the use of Royal Artillery Barracks at Woolwich.

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of army families who would have to vacate their accommodation to enable shooting events to take place at Woolwich army base as part of the London 2012 Olympics. [233745]

Mr. Kevan Jones: It is a priority for the Ministry of Defence, the Department for Culture Media and Sport, and the London Organising Committee for the Olympic games to minimise any disruption to the army units, soldiers and their families based at Woolwich. However, until a decision is made on the final design of the venue, I cannot give an estimate of the number of families, if any, who may have to vacate their accommodation.

Defence Medical Services

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual strength of the Defence Medical Services is, broken down by type. [234920]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 842W. Manning statistics for the Defence Medical Services are updated twice a year, in April and October. The October figures are currently being collated, and I will write to the hon. Member when these have been completed.

Departmental Civil Servants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many civil servants were employed by his Department in each year since 1998, broken down by *(a)* directorate, *(b)* role and *(c)* pay grade. [231460]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I have placed the information requested in the Library of the House.

Departmental Consultants

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on external consultants in each year since 1998. [231398]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Summaries for the years 1997-98 to 2007-08 of MOD expenditure on external assistance, of which consultancy is a part, are available in the Library of the House.

Departmental Health Services

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much was spent on private sector health specialists by his Department in the last five years. [231397]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The vast majority of healthcare for service personnel is provided, both at home and overseas, by the Defence Medical Services (DMS). However, there will be times when it is necessary to employ private sector health specialists, such as when a particular specialism is not available within the DMS, or when it would be impractical to provide the service using internal resources (for example, aspects of healthcare for personnel posted overseas in places such as Germany and other smaller bases and detachments).

In practice, the departmental spend on such private sector health provision is drawn from a number of individual budgets across the MOD, including at local unit level within the single services, and disproportionate effort would be required to provide the information requested.

However, we have been able to obtain a breakdown of costs from the MOD central budget and British Forces Germany which provide an insight into the figures and areas on which costs are incurred.

MOD central budget

FY	£
2004-05	4,702,662
2005-06	5,802,167
2006-07	4,892,840
2007-08	6,561,094
2008-09 (up to 27 October)	3,282,269

These figures are inclusive of the contract costs the MOD has with the Priory, Alliance Medical etc.

British Forces Germany

FY	£
2004-05	45,755,000
2005-06	43,790,000
2006-07	43,720,000
2007-08	45,450,000

These figures include secondary healthcare contacts with German hospitals, non-contracted extra-contractural costs, primary care contract costs with SSAFA Forces Help, and Guy's and St. Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust, non contracted primary care costs, and costs related to isolated detachments in European theatre.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 3 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1040W, on departmental manpower, what records his Department's human resources division holds of the number of permanent departmental staff who do not have a permanent post. [233646]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 5 November 2008, there were some 525 MOD civil servants who were in the civilian redeployment pool because their substantive posts had reached an end, or because they were returning from overseas or extended absence. A further 446 were in the redeployment pool because their posts were due to end within six months. Those staff receive preferential consideration for posts. While in the redeployment pool, staff whose substantive posts have ended remain in their posts and continue to be funded and managed by their previous management, who assist them with their development and job search and employ them on appropriate temporary tasks. Central records of posts and their occupants, and of membership of the redeployment pool, are held by the People Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) for all MOD civil servants (other than employees of trading fund agencies for whom separate arrangements are made).

Departmental Mass Media

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department has spent on media monitoring activities in each year since 2005. [234325]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Media monitoring costs for the whole Department are not held centrally. The costs for the central Media and Communications unit which is responsible for management of media issues across defence including the armed forces are as follows:

	£
2004-05	514,363
2005-06	539,407
2006-07	678,929
2007-08	730,390

These costs include press cuttings, online media monitoring and of national and regional broadcast footage; these products are used across the whole of defence from MOD Head office to our headquarters on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. The costs reflect the quantity of stories and level of interest in defence stories.

We have recently reviewed our contracts to assure ourselves that this represents value for money.

Departmental Paper

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220728]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The percentage of paper used for photocopying and printed publications from recycled sources in the last two years is as follows:

For the first year, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 9 May 2007, *Official Report,* column 218W.

From October 2007 to date, 2,072,455 reams of paper have been purchased for photocopying and computer printing; 688,163 reams (33.21 per cent.) of which complied with the recycled content standard. 100 per cent. of paper used in copiers and printers in the MOD head office buildings complies with the minimum recycled content standard. The MOD is committed to improving this figure and the paper framework catalogue highlights and recommends the use of recycled paper. Also when MOD staff order non-recycled paper from the Office Depot help desk, they are challenged on why they could not order recycled paper.

From April 2007 to date, 2,185.84 tonnes of paper has been purchased for printed publications; 2,149.66 tonnes (98 per cent.) of which complied with the recycled content standard.

Fuels

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the capacity of storage facilities for *(a)* petroleum products and *(b)* natural gas is owned by his Department; and how much of the capacity is in use. [234411]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The petroleum product storage facilities for active sites, comprises 2.04 million cubic metres capacity. Additionally, a number of sites are held in reserve for contingency use as part of the United Kingdom's critical national infrastructure. I am withholding information on the current utilisation of strategic storage capacity for the purpose of safeguarding national security.

The Ministry of Defence does not own any natural gas storage facilities.

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many miles of pipeline for *(a)* petroleum products and *(b)* natural gas his Department owns; and how much of the capacity is currently being utilised. [234412]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Ministry of Defence owns 1,620 miles of pipeline for petroleum products. Current utilisation of the core network that connects import locations and refineries from which spur pipelines are connected to military establishments is approximately 80 per cent. of capacity.

The Ministry of Defence does not own any natural gas pipelines.

Kenley Airfield

Richard Ottaway: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 2174W, on Kenley Airfield, what the monetary value of the portion of the fencing stored at Kenley Airfield that will not be used under the revised planning application is; and what plans he has to dispose of the surplus fencing. [234661]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The monetary value of the fencing stored at Kenley airfield, which will not be used in the new planning application, is in the region of £87,000. No decision has yet been made on the future use of the surplus fence.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228556]

Mr. Kevan Jones: Under the disability equality duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies listed in the associated regulations are required to publish and implement disability equality schemes. In April 2008, the Ministry of Defence published a revised overarching equality and diversity scheme 2008-11, encompassing the armed forces, civilian and Ministry of Defence police, which incorporated our respective disability equality schemes (DES). The armed forces scheme includes the specific exemption from the employment provisions of the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. These plans set out how we will carry out the disability equality duty, monitor and report on progress. In particular, they include our arrangements for gathering information on the effect of our policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of our disabled civilian employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The following arrangements are set out in the Department's disability equality scheme:

> We have developed an equality and diversity impact assessment tool (EDIAT) to assist service, civilian and MDP policy makers when initiating and developing new policies and procedures, and when reviewing exiting policies to ensure that they fully comply with the duties placed upon us.
>
> We gather analyse and evaluate a range of civilian employment information on the effect of our policies on the development and retention of disabled staff.

The public sector bodies sponsored by the Department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

Navy

Dr. Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what recent assessment his Department has made of the potential of using commercial vessels in support of Royal Navy operations, in respect of *(a)* cost, *(b)* crewing arrangements and *(c)* numbers of vessels available for charter; [234759]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the complementary roles in support of the Royal Navy which can be fulfilled by *(a)* the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and *(b)* commercial vessels. [234760]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The MOD uses a combination of commercial, auxiliary and military vessels. It does so after considerable consultation and analysis of the most efficient and effective means of meeting the requirement to ensure that we deliver value for money, taking into account of factors such as the potential threat level and the availability and capability of suitable assets including crews. While commercial vessels have expertise and equipment to suit their own specific trades, they do not have the training and skills for military operations and consequently there are limitations to their use, particularly in higher threat environments.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234705]

Mr. Sutcliffe: None of the organizations for which my Department is responsible currently use Airwave. Discussions about the potential use of Airwave to support 2012 are under way but no decisions have yet been taken.

BBC

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many times he has met the director general of the BBC in the last month. [233888]

Andy Burnham: I met the director general once, on 5 November.

BBC: Internet

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions the Government have had with the BBC on its plans for local video sites. [234762]

Andy Burnham: I have regular meetings with the BBC at which we discuss a range of issues. This has included the local video proposal.

The BBC's plans for local video sites are a matter for the BBC Trust. There is no provision for the Government to intervene in the day-to-day operational or editorial matters.

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent discussions the Government has had with news organisations on the BBC's plans for local video sites. [234763]

Andy Burnham: officials in my Department and from the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform meet from time to time with representatives from the newspaper industry who have raised this issue on a number of occasions.

Departmental Manpower

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235228]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In DCMS only three staff out of 424 received a 'needs to improve' assessment in the latest reporting year (2007-08).

Digital Switchover Help Scheme: Gwent

Mr. Touhig: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people aged over 75 and *(b)* disabled people who have received assistance from the digital switchover help scheme in Islwyn. [231605]

Andy Burnham: Digital switchover does not take place in Islwyn until the first quarter in 2010 and the Digital Switchover Help Scheme roll out has therefore not yet reached the stage where these data are available. The Digital Switchover Help Scheme has estimated however that about 5,000 people aged 75 and over and 3,000 disabled people in Islwyn are potentially eligible for assistance.

Gambling: Internet

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what internet gambling companies are registered in the UK. [233567]

Mr. Sutcliffe *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* The Gambling Commission publishes two public registers of all remote and non-remote gambling operators licensed by the Commission. These provide details of the licences granted and category of licence they hold.

These registers are updated daily and can be found at the Gambling Commission's website:

www.Gamblingcommission.gov.uk

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps he has taken to regulate internet gambling. [233885]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Gambling Act 2005 (the Act) enabled internet gambling, as well as other forms of gambling and betting provided remotely, to be licensed and regulated effectively in Great Britain for the first time. Any operator who wants to offer remote gambling facilities and has remote gambling equipment located in Great Britain, must obtain a 'remote operating licence' from the Gambling Commission.

To secure the three licensing objectives of the Act, the Gambling Commission is responsible for setting the licence conditions and codes of practice that all licensees, including remote licensees, must meet.

Gambling: Regulation

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with jurisdictions where remote gambling companies which are allowed to advertise in the UK operate on the adequacy of their regulatory regimes; and if he will make a statement. [234948]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Ministers and officials have had discussions with a number of jurisdictions whose operators are allowed to advertise gambling in the United Kingdom. In some cases those discussions included an assessment of the regulatory regimes of those jurisdictions.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport when he was first made aware of current levels of failure of the Gambling Commission's mystery shopper test for gambling operations; and what steps he has taken in response. [234985]

Mr. Sutcliffe: I have not had any specific discussions with the Gambling Commission with regards to the levels of failure of the mystery shopper test.

As the independent regulator for most commercial gambling in Great Britain, the Gambling Commission is best placed to assess the measures required where deficiencies are identified. However, to date, there have been no serious failures or complaints. Should the Commission find evidence of such failures, it has a wide range of regulatory sanctions that it may apply to an operating licensee in addition to its normal compliance activity. Such sanctions include warnings, additional conditions, financial penalties, suspension or revocation of licence and prosecution.

If the Gambling Commission's mystery shopping exercises reveals failings in respect of operators licensed in overseas jurisdictions permitted to advertise gambling in Great Britain, I may consider making regulations to remove those jurisdictions from the list.

Gambling: Young People

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport whether all jurisdictions which have been placed on the gambling whitelist have procedures in place that ensure age verification can be conducted within 72 hours. [234896]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is not a specific requirement of the Government's published criteria that jurisdictions have in place procedures where age verification checks are conducted within 72 hours. However, they must have in place measures to prevent under-age gambling and be able to demonstrate that their licensing and regulatory regime is sufficiently robust to protect children and vulnerable adults.

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the adequacy of existing legislation on remote gambling in preventing children from gambling. [234946]

Mr. Sutcliffe: It is an offence under the Act for any operator to invite, cause or permit children to gamble, punishable by a large fine or imprisonment. Operators of internet gambling sites which are licensed by the Gambling Commission must comply with tough social responsibility measures to prevent underage gambling. If operators fail to comply with these requirements they are subject to regulatory action from the Gambling Commission. At present, the Government have seen no evidence that warrants changing the new protections brought in by the Gambling Act 2005.

Mass Media

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what recent steps the Government have taken to promote local and regional media organisations. [234761]

Andy Burnham: The UK Film Council provides funding to nine regional screen agencies in England to support film making and media activities within their area with funding and vital specialist expertise and advice.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr. Gregory Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice and assistance has been offered to aid workers in Afghanistan following the recent murder of Gayle Williams. [232836]

Bill Rammell: Non-governmental organisations (NGOs) make a vital contribution to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. There are significant risks working in Afghanistan, as recent tragic events have demonstrated. The travel advice provided by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office is regularly updated and gives our best general assessment of the conditions on the ground. We regularly update NGOs who have registered with our embassy in Kabul on threats to security—it is then up to them to make their own judgments regarding their operations, often in consultation with the umbrella security organisation, the Afghanistan NGO Safety Office.

Arms Trade

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards an international arms trade treaty. [228201]

Bill Rammell: Together with Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan and Kenya, we have been pressing for an International Arms Trade treaty (ATT) to be agreed at the United Nations. At this year's First Committee of the UN General Assembly, the UK together with these six other states co-authored a resolution proposing further work at the UN in 2009 aimed at establishing an ATT. The resolution was adopted on 31 October by an overwhelming majority (147 states in favour, and only two votes against (the US and Zimbabwe). Achieving an ATT is a complex process, which will take time, but we have made good progress, and we will continue to work actively towards achieving our goal.

On the domestic front, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary launched a new phase of the UK's campaign towards an ATT by hosting a meeting of key stakeholders from industry, civil society, academia and the media in London on 9 September. In addition, I hosted a briefing on 9 October for the London-based Diplomatic Corps, setting out the UK's support for an Arms Trade treaty and encouraging active international engagement in the UN process.

British Nationality: Detainees

Mr. Tyrie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British nationals have been detained in *(a)* Bangladesh, *(b)* Syria and *(c)* Egypt on suspicion of terrorist offences since 2000. [224458]

Bill Rammell: Officials in my Department are reviewing our records so that we can provide an accurate answer to the hon. Member's question. I will write to him with details as soon as possible.

Burma: Human Rights

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what proposals the Government have put forward to strengthen co-ordination in Burma between the UN Secretary-General's Good Offices, the Security Council, the Office for the Co-ordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the Human Rights Council, the Group of Friends and the Focus Group; and if he will make a statement. [232115]

Bill Rammell: The Government maintain a regular dialogue with all UN bodies working in Burma, both in New York and in country, and frequently discuss Burma with partners on the Security Council, the Human Rights Council and in the two informal groupings of countries acting in support of the Secretary-General's Good Offices Mission. Our embassy in Rangoon is relied upon by a number of international institutions as a source of advice and insights on the situation in Burma.

Through these contacts, we encourage a coherent and consistent approach to Burma aimed at improving the lives of its people, including by providing substantial humanitarian assistance and working towards a credible transition to democracy and respect for human rights.

Burma: Storms

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the extent to which the Burmese authorities have met their commitments to grant access to foreign aid workers to the areas affected by Cyclone Nargis; and if he will make a statement. [212042]

David Miliband: Access to the areas affected by Cyclone Nargis improved significantly after the visit of the UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon on 23 May and the United Nations/Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) conference in Rangoon on 25 May. The rate of delivery of aid has now been good for several months. A Tripartite Core Group (TCG) made up of the UN, ASEAN and the Burmese Government was set up after the Conference. It has played a significant role in ensuring that aid gets through and that international experts have access to the affected areas. In late July, UN Emergency Relief Co-ordinator John Holmes declared the operation was now a "normal international relief operation". However, important challenges remain over the coming months, particularly in providing clean water during the dry season in areas where traditional sources of supply are still contaminated by salt water, and in helping poor rural families restore their livelihoods.

We continue to work with the UN, ASEAN and international partners to press the regime to live up to its commitments to allow unfettered access to the worst affected areas.

Departmental Pay

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will review salary negotiations for public sector employees in organisations within his Department's responsibility to reflect the rise in the consumer price index to a point above 3 per cent. [214549]

Gillian Merron: The Government's pay policy is guided by the following principles. Public sector pay settlements should be consistent with maintaining the necessary levels of recruitment, retention and staff engagement needed to support service delivery; ensure that total pay bills represent value for money and are affordable within Departments' overall expenditure plans; and be consistent with the achievement of the inflation target. Timing of pay decisions for a particular work force depends on pay-setting arrangements for that work force.

Departmental Public Participation

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services were provided for his Department by external organisations in financial year 2007-08, broken down by provider. [204125]

Gillian Merron: The Department does not collect centrally information on all the *(a)* surveys, *(b)* questionnaires and *(c)* other services it commissions in the format requested. To do so would incur disproportionate cost.

Heathrow Airport: Official Visits

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what facilities his Department uses at Terminal 5, Heathrow Airport, to meet visiting diplomats and politicians. [234396]

Gillian Merron: The Windsor Suite at Terminal 5, which is owned and operated by BAA, is available for use by eligible diplomats and politicians. As with the other VIP suites serving terminals 1 to 4 at London Heathrow airport, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office pays only for use of the suites by those visiting the UK on state visits or as guests of the Government.

Libya: State Visits

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will facilitate a meeting between President Gaddafi of Libya on his forthcoming visit to the UK and representatives of the families of victims of IRA terrorist activity in incidents where the *(a)* explosives, *(b)* weapons and *(c)* preparation of terrorist acts had their provenance in Libya; and if he will make a statement. [234205]

Bill Rammell: In light of an increasingly busy summit schedule through to the end of the year, my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister has decided to recast the energy summit scheduled for December as a ministerial meeting. Libya is expected to be represented by its Oil Minister, Shokri Ghanem and not Colonel Gaddafi. The opportunity for a meeting will therefore not arise.

Lost Working Days

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many working days have been lost due to industrial action by employees for which his Department is responsible in each year since 1997. [218047]

Gillian Merron: Working days lost due to industrial action for the 31 January and 1 May 2007 strikes were 38 and six respectively. Prior to 2007, the FCO has not recorded these figures. To answer this question would therefore incur a disproportionate cost.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to promote a settlement between Israel and the Palestinian people; and if he will make a statement. [234529]

Bill Rammell: The Annapolis process has been a first step to restoring trust between Israel and the Palestinian people. We should seek to build on it to create a process which can deliver a broader peace, in which all exercise their rights and fulfil their responsibilities. This would be a true settlement between Israel and all Arab states. I hope it will be given new momentum from the beginning of the new American administration.

Nepal: Human Rights

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will raise with the Nepalese authorities the treatment of ethnic Tibetans involved in recent demonstrations in Nepal. [234210]

Bill Rammell: Through our embassy in Kathmandu, we have monitored the situation of Tibetan refugees in Nepal closely since protests began earlier this year. On 23 June, our ambassador to Nepal joined a démarche on the Nepalese Foreign Secretary to raise concerns of the international community about the arrest of three prominent Tibetans in Kathmandu and the use of arbitrary detention under the Public Security Act. Staff from our embassy in Kathmandu have also accompanied officials from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights when they observed police action against protests by Tibetan refugees. We have encouraged the Nepal police to ensure that all officers act with restraint when handling protest groups and urged that action is taken against any officers accused of using excessive force. Together with our EU and other international partners, we will continue to monitor the situation in Nepal closely.

Official Cars

Stephen Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which make and model of car the Minister for Africa, Asia and the UN has chosen as his Ministerial car to be provided by the Government Car and Despatch Agency. [217754]

David Miliband: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 16 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 414W by my hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Transport (Jim Fitzpatrick).

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Keith Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the deployment of an African Union mission in Somalia on peace and security in that country; and if he will make a statement. [232685]

Gillian Merron: The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) has made a significant contribution to security in Mogadishu since its deployment. AMISOM soldiers from Uganda and Burundi protect key locations, including the port, airport, presidential palace and a key road junction. The security provided in Mogadishu has enabled the Somali leaders to concentrate on the political processes that are needed to secure peace in the long term.

AMISOM soldiers have also been actively involved in providing humanitarian assistance to the Somali population, providing medical assistance and distributing water. These activities have made a positive impact on the situation of ordinary Somalis and help to support peace and security.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Social Exclusion

8. **Chris McCafferty:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps the Government are taking to use early intervention as a method to tackle social exclusion. [234801]

Mr. Byrne: This Government have a strong track record of intervening early to address the root causes of social exclusion, not just the symptoms. Since 1997 we have invested over £21 billion in Sure Start children centres and extending the provision of child care.

The 2006 Social Exclusion Action Plan underlined the Government's commitment to early intervention and launched a series of new evidence based programmes such as the Family Nurse Partnership which intensify even further our focus on prevention.

Taxation

9. **Tony Baldry:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent discussions the Cabinet Office has had with Treasury Ministers on the Government's support for charitable organisations and on their taxation status. [234802]

Kevin Brennan: I meet with Treasury Ministers regularly to discuss a range of issues that affect the Third Sector.

Social Inclusion: Rural Areas

10. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what recent representations he has received on social inclusion in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [234803]

Mr. Byrne: Ministers receive representations on social inclusion in rural areas as part of their day to day work.

The Government's Strong Rural Communities Programme supports people living in rural areas to achieve the same kinds of outcomes we want for all citizens—good health, decent homes, high quality education, and access to work.

In addition, every local authority in both rural and urban locations will report on outcomes for disadvantaged groups, as part of our public service agreement for socially excluded adults.

Public Relations

11. **Mr. Amess:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how much was spent on Government advertising, marketing and public relations in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008 according to records held by the Central Office of Information. [234804]

Mr. Byrne: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave earlier today to the hon. Member for Blaby (Mr. Robathan).

Social Exclusion: Young Women

12. **Ms Keeble:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what steps he is taking to tackle social exclusion among young women; and if he will make a statement. [234805]

Kevin Brennan: Social exclusion is a priority for the Government. The Social Exclusion Task Force is leading the way through a PSA on socially excluded adults and by developing new approaches to tackling disadvantage.

These approaches include the Family Nurse Partnerships, launched in April 2007, which have helped over 1,000 young women under the age of 20, and the £6 million Adults Facing Chronic Exclusion Programme, designed to test new approaches to tackling chronic social exclusion among the most marginalised people in society—including young women at risk of exclusion and associated problems such as abuse, crime and addiction.

The Government are committed to ensuring that all young people are on the path to success—cross-cutting work which is driven primarily through PSA 14. Co-ordinated support for all young people, including women, covers initiatives such as targeted youth support, the commitment to reduce the proportion of 16 to 18-year-olds not in education, employment or training (NEET), the recently announced £13 million Intensive Intervention Projects, £140 million investment in targeted parenting programmes, and the expansion of whole family support initiatives such as Family Intervention Projects though a commitment to put one in every local authority by 2011. At the same time as strengthening our efforts to help young girls have the best start in life, the Teenage Pregnancy Strategy aims to ensure that young parents receive the support they need to make successful futures for themselves and their children.

This work is supported by a range of other cross-government initiatives such as positive activities and the £190 million investment in improving youth facilities, and Government strategies on Youth Alcohol, Youth Crime, Youth Volunteering and Drugs.

Show Us A Better Way Competition

13. **Paul Farrelly:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what the results of his Department's Show Us A Better Way competition were; and if he will make a statement. [234806]

Mr. Watson: I am delighted to inform the hon. Member that the overall winner of the Show Us A Better Way competition is Adam Temple with 'Can I Recycle It'. A full list of winners will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Post-16 Education and Training

14. **Ms Angela C. Smith:** To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the effect on social exclusion and social mobility of post-16 education and training. [234807]

Kevin Brennan: Evidence suggests that education is an important factor in reducing the risk of social exclusion. For example, people with no qualifications are seven times more likely to be unemployed and five times more likely to be low paid than people with higher education. The Strategy Unit's discussion paper 'Getting on, Getting Ahead' identified high quality post-16 education and training as a critical factor in improving people's life chances. The discussion paper provides the analytical base for a cross-Government White Paper, to be published in December. The White Paper will set out a range of policies that aim to raise social mobility including providing more people with the capabilities and skills needed to get more and better jobs.

Government Departments: Correspondence

Norman Baker: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster pursuant to the answer of 5 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 500W, on Government Departments: correspondence, what steps are in place to ensure such messages sent are potentially retrievable for responses to requests submitted under the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [234882]

Mr. Straw: I have been asked to reply.

Information held by a public authority will be subject to the Freedom of Information Act. A code of practice, issued under section 46, gives guidance on good practice in records management to all authorities subject to the Act.

Social Mobility

Sandra Osborne: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what assessment he has made of the implications of the Prime Minister's Strategy Unit report Getting On Getting Ahead for his Department's policy on social mobility. [234794]

Mr. Byrne: This discussion paper brings together the leading academic research on social mobility in preparation for an important White Paper coming out at the end of the year.

This paper provides a platform for Departments across Government to develop the policies that will give everyone a fairer chance of getting more and better jobs.

Significantly, the paper identifies the need to support people from childhood right up until they are on the job ladder and beyond. Supporting families and communities is highlighted as an important context throughout the analysis.

HEALTH

Abortion

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what information his Department holds on the number of terminations of pregnancy in England in each of the last five years. [234629]

Dawn Primarolo: Abortion Statistics for England and Wales are published annually every June. Copies of previous statistics (including the 2007 data) have already been placed in the Library.

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of treating patients with a primary or secondary diagnosis of excessive alcohol consumption was in each of the last 10 years. [232135]

Dawn Primarolo: The International Classification of Diseases does not include a diagnosis specifically related to 'excessive alcohol consumption'. A 2008 paper by the Department 'The cost of alcohol harm to the NHS in England: An update to the Cabinet Office (2003) study' estimated the 2006-07 cost of hospital admissions where a primary or secondary diagnosis is wholly attributable to alcohol at £183 million in 2008-9 prices. A copy of this paper has been placed in the Library. Those diagnoses defined as wholly attributed to alcohol were:

Alcoholic cardiomyopathy (I42.6)
Alcoholic gastritis (K29.2)
Alcoholic myopathy (G72.1)
Alcoholic polyneuropathy (G62.1)
Alcohol-induced pseudo-Cushing's syndrome (E24.4)
Degeneration of nervous system due to alcohol (G31.2)
Mental and behavioural disorders due to use of alcohol (F10)
Accidental poisoning by and exposure to alcohol (X45)
Ethanol poisoning (T51.0)
Methanol poisoning (T51.1)
Toxic effect of alcohol, unspecified (T51.9)
Chronic pancreatitis (alcohol induced) (K86.0)

Estimates of other hospital and non-hospital costs of treating patients with a primary or secondary diagnosis of excessive alcohol consumption are not available.

A Cabinet Office (2003) study Alcohol misuse: How much does it cost? estimated the cost of hospital admissions in 2000-01 at £126 million in 2001 prices. This used a different methodology to the Department's report's and so the estimates are not directly comparable.

Data for other years are not available.

Carers

Mr. Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered as carers in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [234826]

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were registered as carers in Hemel Hempstead in each of the last five years. [234575]

Phil Hope: This information is not held centrally, as carers who support friends and family members are not required to register with local authorities.

Chlamydia

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of primary care trusts are taking part in his Department's National Chlamydia Screening Programme; [235087]

(2) what steps are being taken to reduce the incidence of chlamydia amongst people aged 16 to 24 years. [235108]

Dawn Primarolo: Every primary care trust (PCT) in England is now offering chlamydia screening through the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP). Opportunistic screening is offered to all sexually active women and men, aged under 25 years, in a variety of health and non-health care settings. The Department has made increasing screening volumes and reducing chlamydia prevalence a priority for the national health service and it is included as a tier two indicator in the operating framework for 2008-09 to 2010-11.

To increase awareness of sexual transmitted infections and promote the use of condoms, we launched the Condom Essential Wear campaign in November 2006. Campaign tracking indicates that behaviour within the target audience has started to change and evidence suggests a shift in condom purchasing behaviour towards the target 18 to 24 age group.

Chronically Sick

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish his Department's review of strategy on managing chronic illnesses. [234655]

Ann Keen: The Department is not planning to publish a review of its strategy of managing long term conditions.

Contraceptives

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment his Department has made of the merits of greater uptake of long-acting contraception; [234630]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the potential savings to the NHS through increased use of long-acting methods of contraception; and if he will make a statement; [234631]

(3) what proportion of the £26.5 million funding announced in February 2008 to improve young people's access to contraception he expects to be spent on long-acting reversible contraception; and if he will make a statement. [234632]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) published guidance on the cost-effectiveness of long-acting reversible (LARC) methods of contraception in October 2005 which found that LARC methods are more cost-effective than the combined oral contraceptive pill even at one year of use.

NICE estimated that if 7 per cent. of women switched from the contraceptive pill to LARC methods the NHS could save an estimated £100 million each year by reducing unintended pregnancies by approximately 73,000.

The national health service has been asked to prioritise improving access to LARC methods of contraception as part of their plans for the additional £26.8 million additional funding allocated in 2008-09.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what measures he has in place to ensure that the £26.5 million funding announced in February 2008 to improve young people's access to contraception supports a full range of contraceptives, including long-acting reversible contraception. [234633]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for Sutton and Cheam (Mr. Burstow) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 665W.

Dr. Naysmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what records his Department holds on the proportion of primary care trusts that have undertaken a comprehensive audit of long-acting reversible contraception; [234634]

(2) what records his Department holds on the level of GP compliance with the recommendation in Clinical Guideline CG30 that women requiring contraception should be offered a choice of all methods, including long-acting reversible contraception. [234635]

Dawn Primarolo: Primary care trusts undertook a national baseline questionnaire of contraceptive services in 2006. The Department's document Findings of the Baseline Review of contraceptive Services (2007) has been placed in the Library.

Changes have been made to the NHS Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2009-10 for general practitioners (GPs) which include a reallocation of the points system to financially reward them for giving advice on contraception, particularly long-acting methods, to help prevent unintended pregnancies including teenage pregnancies.

Crohn's Disease

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has held with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on its consultation on Crohn's Disease—Infliximab (review) and Adalimumab; and when he expects it to publish its final appraisal determination. [234671]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department had no such discussions. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) held its second appraisal committee meeting on 22 October 2008 and, subject to consideration of the comments received in response to its consultation, NICE will issue its final appraisal determination in due course.

Further information can be obtained on NICE's website at:

www.nice.org.uk/guidance/index.jsp?action=byID&o=11727

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the annual costs to the NHS of *(a)* anti-TNF therapies and *(b)* surgery in the treatment of Crohn's disease. [234672]

Ann Keen: No estimate has been made.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will collect data centrally on the number of people diagnosed with Crohn's disease in the last 12 months. [234673]

Ann Keen: We have no plans to collect data on the number of people diagnosed with Crohn's disease in the last 12 months.

Dementia: Research

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 377-8W, on dementia: research, when he expects a complete set of dementia research expenditure data for 2007-08 to be available. [234366]

Dawn Primarolo: The analysis required to produce the data should be complete by the end of this month. I will write to the hon. Member as soon as the information he has requested becomes available.

Departmental NDPBs

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what budget was allocated for the work of *(a)* Monitor, *(b)* the Standing Dental Advisory Committee and *(c)* the Doctors and Dentists Review Body in each of the last five years. [232433]

Ann Keen: The budget allocated for the work of Monitor was:

	£
2004-05	16,011,000
2005-06	17,344,000
2006-07	12,552,000
2007-08	13,500,000
2008-09	16,175,000

There was no central budget allocated for the work of the Standing Dental Advisory Committee, members have been paid for travel expenses on an ad hoc basis for attending meetings.

The budget allocated for the work of the Doctors and Dentist Review Body was:

	£
2004-05	0
2005-06	36,000
2006-07	41,000
2007-08	36,000
2008-09	38,000

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many paid officials work for *(a)* Monitor, *(b)* the Standing Dental Advisory Committee, *(c)* the Doctors and Dentists Review Body, *(d)* the NHS Litigation Authority, *(e)* the NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement, *(f)* the NHS Business Services Authority and *(g)* the NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency. [232456]

Ann Keen: The information is as follows.

	Number
Monitor	89
Standing Dental Advisory Committee	0
Doctors and Dentist Review Body	0
NHS Litigation Authority	158
NHS Institute for Innovation and Improvement	102
NHS Business Services Authority	2,918
NHS Purchasing and Supply Agency	259

Diabetes

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of *(a)* type 1 and *(b)* type 2 diabetes were (i) in each of the last 10 years and (ii) at the most recent date for which information is available; and how often and by what mechanism the rate is measured. [235021]

Ann Keen: Information on the number of people with diabetes is available from the Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF).

Figures for the last 10 years are not available. However, the following table shows the number of people recorded on diabetes registers (including both type one and type two diabetes) from 2004-05 to 2007-08, from the QOF. It should be noted that patients will contribute to the figures in QOF only if they are registered with a general practice participating in the QOF. QOF data are collected annually and only include people with diabetes aged 17 or over. Figures are not available broken down into type one and type two diabetes. The latest prevalence data are from June 2008.

Patients with a recorded diagnosis of diabetes

	Number
2004-05	1,766,391
2005-06	1,890,663
2006-07	1,961,976
2007-08	2,088,335

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of new cases of diabetes identified in the last 12 months his Department estimates were due to *(a)* better diagnosis of existing diabetes and *(b)* more people developing diabetes. [235023]

Ann Keen: In 2007-08, there were 2,088,335 people recorded as having diabetes on general practitioner practice registers. This is an increase of 126,359 on the previous year. It is not possible to identify how much of this increase is through improved diagnosis of the condition, and how much is through an increase in the number of people developing diabetes.

East of England Strategic Health Authority: Operating Costs

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost of running and administering the East of England Strategic Health Authority was in each year for which figures are available. [232624]

Mr. Bradshaw: The operating costs of the East of England strategic health authority, for each full year since its incorporation are given in the following table.

	Net operating cost (£000)
2006-07	39,657
2007-08	22,175
2008-09[1]	18,752

[1] Forecast Outturn.

Health Living Alliance

John Battle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to identify a champion in his Department to take advantage of the experience and skills developed by members of the Health Living Alliance; and if he will make a statement. [233105]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has supported the Healthy Living Alliance (HLA) with initial set up funding and other help to ensure it has a place alongside other national public health non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The HLA is a member of the Department's NGO Forum which was set up and funded by the Department to facilitate dialogue between them, and with the Department and other government Departments, and to enable them to contribute to the development of public health policy drawing on their expertise. The Department also has a seat on the forum to facilitate engagement with the NGO sector. There are, however, no plans to provide each NGO with a dedicated champion or contact point.

Health: Olympic Games 2012

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on any legacy of health improvements from the 2012 Olympic Games; [233383]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Minister for the Olympics on budgetary allocations for health improvement measures intended as a legacy of the London 2012 Olympic Games. [233436]

Dawn Primarolo: The Legacy Action Plan (LAP) was published in June 2008 which set out the target for two million people to be more active by 2012 as the principal health legacy from the 2012 Olympic Games. Officials meet regularly to monitor progress of the LAP including those aspects related to the health legacy, which will set new standards in improving health. Governance arrangements to monitor the progress of the health legacy are being put in place.

The London 2012 Olympic Games have added strength and impetus to the Government's plans for health-enhancing spend and physical activity and have inspired a cross-Government investment of £140 million in the national scheme to offer free swimming to those aged 16 and under and 60 and over.

Health: Research

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to assure the quality of academic research commissioned by his Department that relates to health improvement. [234267]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department invests in research concerned with health improvement through National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) funding streams, including the public health research programme launched in May this year, and via the Policy Research Programme. The research commissioned or supported in this way and the outputs from it are subject to rigorous independent peer review.

The Government's health research strategy Best Research for Best Health aims to ensure that national health service research funding is used to support the highest quality research, and to provide the facilities and systems needed to enable that research to take place. A copy has been placed in the Library. Further details are available on the NIHR website at: www.nihr.ac.uk. The Department's research governance framework for health and social care defines the broad principles of good research governance and is designed to ensure that all health and social care research is conducted to high scientific and ethical standards. The framework has been placed in the Library and is published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Researchanddevelopment/A-Z/Researchgovernance/index.htm.

Heart Diseases

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what percentage of patients with coronary heart disease had a record of total cholesterol of 5mmol/l or less (Indicator CHD08) in each primary care trust on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement; [234153]

(2) if he will publish a table showing for each primary care trust in England the percentage of *(a)* exception reporting on indicator CHD08 and *(b)* patients with coronary heart disease whose last measured total cholesterol is 5mmol/l or less in 2007-08. [234390]

Ann Keen: The information requested has been placed in the Library.

HIV Infection

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of new HIV infections were acquired outside the UK in each year since 2001. [234984]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Individuals diagnosed with HIV in the United Kingdom (UK) where probable country of infection was outside the UK by year of first UK diagnoses, 2001-07

	Persons for whom probable country of infection was reported; the proportion who acquired their infection outside the UK (percentage)
2001	72
2002	76
2003	75
2004	74
2005	68
2006	63
2007	55

Notes:
1. Figures may include some records of the same individuals, which are unmatched because of difference in the information supplied.
2. Figures for recent years may rise as further reports and/or additional information are received.
3. Data is to end of June 2008.

Source:
Health Protection Agency

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of people who have HIV but are unaware that they have the virus. [234986]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department is addressing reducing undiagnosed HIV infection in a number of ways, including increased investment in targeted HIV health promotion work to improve HIV testing uptake for those most at risk, namely gay men and people from African communities. This has resulted in an increased uptake of HIV testing in Genito-Urinary Medicine clinics from 61 per cent. in 2001 to 85 per cent. in 2006 for gay men and from 41 per cent. to 72 per cent. in heterosexuals.

In addition, the offering and recommending of an HIV test to all pregnant women has resulted in an estimated 90 per cent. uptake in 2006 and a dramatic fall in the proportion of women giving birth to HIV positive babies.

Also, through funding the publication of HIV for non-HIV specialists: 'Diagnosing the Undiagnosed', we are providing detailed guidance to support improved detection and diagnosis of HIV in the UK. A copy has been placed in the Library.

We are also inviting proposals for new pilots on action to reduce undiagnosed HIV following publication in June of 'Health Inequalities: Progress and Next Steps'. A copy of this has been placed in the Library. Funding of £400,000 is available to support the pilots this year. This will support implementation of the UK 'Guidelines for HIV testing 2008', prepared by the British HIV Association, the British Association of Sexual Health and HIV and the British Infection Society, and published in September 2008.

HIV Infection: Research

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department is providing for research into HIV and AIDS in 2008-09. [234269]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department and the Medical Research Council (MRC) have made a sustained investment in HIV/AIDS research over the last 20 years and will continue to do so.

Implementation of the Department's research strategy Best Research for Best Health has resulted in an expansion of our research programmes and in significant new funding opportunities for research in all areas of human health. A copy has already been placed in the Library. The MRC spent some £29 million on research related to HIV/AIDS in 2007-08 and the Department £2.2 million.

Joint MRC and Department for International Development initiatives supporting and encouraging research on HIV include the DART trial, one of the largest trials in Africa to evaluate two strategic approaches for the management of antiretroviral therapies; the antiretorviral research for Watoto trial (the largest paediatric HIV trial worldwide); and the microbicides development programme, a partnership between the United Kingdom and sub-Saharan Africa to develop vaginal microbicides for the prevention of transmission of HIV infection.

The European and Developing Countries Clinical Trials Partnership, which involves 16 European countries and 46 sub-Saharan African countries, and of which the MRC is a key member, aims to develop new clinical interventions to fight HIV/AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis.

Human Rights

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the medical profession on the content of paragraphs 25.3 and 25.4 of the Eighteenth Report from the Joint Committee on Human Rights of Session 2004-05; what representations he has received on these paragraphs since January 2007; and if he will make a statement. [233901]

Phil Hope: The section of the report referred to relates to the provisions of a draft private Member's Bill about assisted dying and so is not a matter for the Department. Since January 2007, the Department has received more than 200 letters on issues relating to assisted dying. Records are not kept on how many of these support or oppose the Bill in general or any particular aspect of the Bill.

Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency: Income

Norman Lamb: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what fees have been paid by each organisation to the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency in the last 12 months. [233804]

Dawn Primarolo: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) charges fees to many organisations for its various activities relating to the regulation of medicines and medical devices. The total sum paid by 3,388 organisations through fees in relation to medicines regulation over the last 12 months is £99 million. It is not possible to give information about the actual amount paid by each organisation without the risk of breaching commercial confidentiality.

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who in his Department was responsible for the approval of the evaluation methodology used in the risk sharing scheme for the provision of multiple sclerosis disease modifying drugs. [234842]

Ann Keen: Health Service Circular 2002/004 "Cost effective provision of disease modifying therapies for people with multiple sclerosis" was approved by Ministers and issued on 4 February 2002. A copy has been placed in the Library and is also available on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Healthservicecirculars/DH_4004332

National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to issue a direction to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to publish the models it uses in each appraisal. [233448]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) already publishes on its website information used by its appraisal committees in formulating their recommendations as part of each technology appraisal. We have no plans to issue a direction to NICE on this issue.

NHS: Drugs

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to end the prohibition on the purchase of additional private drugs to complement NHS treatment; and if he will make a statement. [232939]

Ann Keen: I refer the right hon. Member to the oral statement that was made by the Secretary of State for Health on 4 November 2008, *Official Journal*, column 131.

The statement was in response to the report, "Improving access to medicines for NHS patients", published by Professor Mike Richards, the National Clinical Director for Cancer, which recommends a package of measures to widen access to drugs on the NHS, thereby reducing the need for patients to purchase additional, private treatment. However, when patients still choose to do so, revised guidance, issued in draft by the Department of Health, makes it clear that no patient should lose his or her entitlement to NHS care. A copy of the full report has been placed in the Library and can be found at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_089927

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the NHS of unused prescribed drugs was in 2007-08. [235173]

Dawn Primarolo: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave to the hon. Member for North Norfolk, (Norman Lamb) on 2 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 598-99W.

NHS: Grayling Political Strategy

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what payments NHS Hubs *(a)* has made and *(b)* is contracted to make to Grayling Political Strategy; and for what purposes. [233649]

Mr. Bradshaw: As of 5 November 2008, Grayling Political Strategy has sent one invoice to NHS Innovations Centres. The total amount is £2,843.50.

NHS Innovations comprise nine Innovation Centres, seven of which are companies limited by guarantee, two of which are unincorporated associations. They have retained Grayling Political Strategy for a stakeholder engagement programme. Each Innovation Centre will pay approximately £5,000 for the work.

NHS: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on which occasions *(a)* each local service provider and *(b)* BT have breached the terms of their contract with Connecting for Health. [233773]

Mr. Bradshaw: All the national programme for information technology local service provider (LSP), and national application service provider (NASP), contracts include provisions appropriate to contracts of their size and complexity to address foreseeable development, delivery and service issues, including terms that permit the issue of a breach of contract notification under defined conditions.

In the case of the Fujitsu LSP contract, 41 breach of contract notices were issued, which ultimately resulted in the termination of the contract on 28 May 2008.

None of the remaining LSP and NASP providers, including BT, have been issued with formal breach of contract notices. However, as part of the normal contractual processes, a number of so-called 'contractor event of default' notices have been issued, reflecting operational matters identified during the normal course of contract delivery that need to be addressed. All the matters identified have been addressed using the existing contractual remedies.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospital trusts are using the NHS IT system Cerner; which version of the system each trust is using; when each trust installed the system initially; what the effect of adverse variance to budget has been for each trust in each quarter since installation; and what costs have been incurred by each trust as part of the implementation to date, with particular reference to the costs of *(a)* activity shortfalls attributable to the system not supporting the trust in managing the patient pathway leading to clinic and admission slots not being used, *(b)* data entry difficulties attributable to the system supplied being different from the training system or to the lack of operating or procedure manuals, *(c)* additional staff required for rectification or to maintain normal activity levels and *(d)* issues causing reductions in clinical efficiency. [234405]

Mr. Bradshaw: Information requested on deployments, through the national programme for information technology, of the Cerner Millennium system in acute national health service trusts is in the following table.

Acute trust	*Software version*	*Technical go-live (TGL)*[1]
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS trust	RO	9 February 2007
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS trust	RO	19 April 2007
Weston Area Health NHS trust	RO	29 July 2006
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation trust	RO	14 December 2007
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS trust	RO	20 December 2005
Milton Keynes General Hospital NHS trust	RO	23 February 2007
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS trust	RO	25 September 2006
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS trust	RO	28 September 2007
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	RO	21 July 2007
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	RO	28 October 2007
Barts and The London NHS trust	RO	6 April 2008
Royal Free Hampstead NHS trust	LC1	15 June 2008

[1] TGL refers to when the system was first technically enabled and available for use, prior to 'business go-live' (BGL), when systems begin to be used for live transactions. There may be a delay between TGL and BGL, for example to allow time for users to be trained or to allow other dependent deployments to proceed.

Note:

Comprehensive information of the kind requested about the financial and resource impact, if any, resulting from implementation of the Cerner system is not held centrally, and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

NHS: Negligence

Mr. Scott: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much has been paid out in legal costs in connection with medical negligence compensation cases by each London-based hospital trust in each of the last three years for which figures are available. [234043]

Ann Keen: The document, "London Hospital Trusts' legal costs for clinical negligence between 2005 and 2008", has been placed in the Library and contains the information requested. The data covers legal costs associated with payments under the National Health Service Litigation Authority's (NHSLA) Clinical Negligence Scheme for Trusts and Existing Liabilities Scheme. Claims information can be found in the NHSLA's published factsheets, available on their website at:

www.nhsla.com/Publications

NHS: Sick Leave

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average length of sickness leave per employee was at *(a)* the NHS Blood and Transplant Authority, *(b)* NHS Professionals, *(c)* the Commission for Social Care Inspection, *(d)* the General Social Care Council, *(e)* the Healthcare Commission, *(f)* the Appointments Commission, *(g)* the Mental Health Act Commission, *(h)* the Social Care Institute for Excellence, *(i)* the Hepatitis Advisory Group, *(j)* the AIDS Expert Advisory Group and *(k)* the Healthcare Regulatory Council in the most recent period for which information is available. [233297]

Mr. Bradshaw: The information is as follows:

Arm's length bodies

	Days per employee
(a) NHS Blood and Transplant	12.21
(b) NHS Professionals	6.20
(c) Commission for Social Care Inspection	11.80
(d) General Social Care Council	2.07
(e) Healthcare Commission	3.50
(f) Appointments Commission	8.05
(g) Mental Health Act Commission	6.00
(k) Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence	1.68

Charities

(h) Social Care Institute for Excellence is a charity: 4.6 days per employee

Advisory non-departmental public bodies

(i) Hepatitis Advisory Group

(k) AIDs Expert Advisory Group

Neither of these two bodies employ staff.

Obesity

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rate of obesity was at the latest date for which information is available. [235022]

Dawn Primarolo: The latest information on adult obesity prevalence is available from the Health Survey for England 2006 "Latest trends: Adult trend tables 2006", published on 31 January 2008 for adults aged 16 and over. The information can be found on table 4. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

The latest information on obesity prevalence among children aged 2-15 in 2006 is available from the Health Survey for England 2006 "Latest trends: Children trend tables 2006", published on 31 January 2008. The information can be found on table 4. This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Further information on children's obesity prevalence is available for those in school year reception (aged four to five) and year six (aged 10-11) from the National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 (NCMP). The NCMP provides the most comprehensive data on obesity among children aged four to five and 10-11 years, in England. This information is available in the National Child Measurement Programme: 2006-07 school year, headline results, published on 21 February 2008. The prevalence of obese children can be found in Table 1 (page 3). This publication has already been placed in the Library.

Primary Care Trusts

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he has taken to ensure primary care trusts (PCTs) pay their bills to pharmacists on time; what representations his Department has received from pharmacists on the late payment of bills by PCTs; and what estimate his Department has made of the average amount of time taken by PCTs to pay bills from pharmacists. [234656]

Dawn Primarolo: For essential and advanced pharmaceutical services, the Department ensures that pharmacy contractors are paid by the Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business Services Authority, to a published timetable. This centralised administrative payment function utilises both primary care trust (PCT) and central funds.

Payment for local enhanced pharmaceutical services is set by the commissioning PCT. Local arrangements determine the time scale for payment.

The Department has received no formal representations on the late payment of bills by PCTs or made any estimate of the average amount of time taken by PCTs to pay, directly, bills from pharmacists.

Primary Health Care

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to reform the management of primary care. [232662]

Mr. Bradshaw: The management of individual primary care services is the responsibility of the respective general practitioner practices, subject to contracts they hold with primary care trusts.

The "NHS Next Stage Review: Our vision for primary and community care", published in July this year, set the strategy for primary and community care over the next 10 years. As part of this vision, we are working with the national health service to support them in improving the commissioning of primary care services in order to ensure that high-quality care is a consistent part of everyone's experience.

Prostate Cancer: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people received treatment for prostate cancer in *(a)* Hemel Hempstead and *(b)* West Hertfordshire Hospital Trust in each of the last 10 years. [231097]

Ann Keen: The information requested is not held centrally.

Royal Cornwall Hospital: Standards

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the evidential basis was for the remarks made by the Minister of State for Health Services on patient outcomes at the Royal Cornwall hospital during his interview broadcast on BBC Radio Cornwall on 14 October. [230215]

Ann Keen: A review undertaken by two of the country's leading surgeons for Upper GI cancer, Professor Mike Griffin and Bill Allum, said that

> "as soon as is practicable the Royal Cornwall hospital NHS Trust Upper GI surgery service should be discontinued and centralised within the Peninsula Network".

Copies of the review can be found at:

http://www.cornwall.nhs.uk/CIOSPCT/KeyDocuments/BoardSept08/UpperGIreview.pdf

A copy has also been placed in the Library.

They also found that the mortality for oesophagectomy at the Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust over the last four and a half years is 12.5 per cent. These results represent the same results as those quoted for units before centralisation took place. However in those Networks with centralised surgical services the most recent 2006-07 data records on hospital mortality is 4.9 per cent. and this is considered to be the current standard.

The data reported to the South West Cancer Registry from hospital episode statistics for the period January 2003 to March 2006 are as follows.

	Number of procedures	*Deaths before 31 days*		*One year mortality (deaths)*	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Plymouth Hospital NHS Trust	158	11	7	33	21
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	108	6	6	23	21
Royal Cornwall Hospital NHS Trust	80	9	11	31	39
South West Strategic Health Authority	917	66	7	267	29

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Screening

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many sexual health test screens were carried out in *(a)* 1997 and *(b)* 2008. [234982]

Dawn Primarolo: Data on sexual health screens are not available for 1997 as the sexual health screen codes have only been collected since 2003.

The number of sexual health screens undertaken in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics in England, by gender; for the years 2003 and 2007, (the latest date for which figures are available) are shown in the following table.

Number of sexual health screens

	2003	*2007*
Male	300,926	491,444
Female	332,363	531,357
Total	633,289	1,022,801

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are for sexual health screens conducted in GUM clinics only. Sexual health screens conducted in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns are the number of sexual health screens performed, not the number of patients screened.
3. Data are by area of GUM clinic and not patients' area of residence.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 returns

Smoking

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce smoking rates among those ethnic minority communities whose rates are higher than the national average. [234184]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department and the national health service make a range of support available to all smokers who want to quit. According to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE):

> "Reducing smoking prevalence among people in routine and manual groups, some minority ethnic groups and disadvantaged communities will help reduce health inequalities more than any other public health measure"

(NICE public health guidance 10, 2008).

The NHS has a network of NHS stop smoking services available in communities across the country. These services are encouraged to provide stop smoking services that are accessible for all potential service users, including for smokers from minority ethnic communities. To assist with the provision of stop smoking services to smokers for ethnic communities, the Department for Communities and Local Government published "Working with Black and Minority Ethnic Communities: A guide for Stop Smoking Service Managers" earlier this year. Health trainers, recruited from local communities also encourage smokers to quit with the support of the NHS.

The Department operates an Asian Tobacco Helpline, and makes available printed materials available in a range of languages. The NHS's "GoSmokefree" website at

www.nhs.uk/gosmokefree

includes downloadable resources in a range of languages. The Department also supports a number of specific projects for minority ethnic communities at regional level.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce smoking rates in regions where they are above the national average. [234185]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department works in close partnership with the national health service and local authorities to reduce smoking prevalence in all regions.

In 2006, smoking prevalence was highest in the north west and north east with both regions having smoking prevalence rates of 25 per cent. of persons aged over 16, compared to the national average of 22 per cent. Dedicated tobacco control offices have been established by the NHS in both regions to reduce smoking rates.

The Department resources the NHS to provide NHS stop smoking services, with additional funding made available to spearhead areas. Funding is also provided for regional tobacco teams to co-ordinate tobacco control activity.

The Department also runs national marketing campaigns. Marketing activity is upweighted in high prevalence areas and regions where appropriate.

The Department encourages local areas and regions to undertake comprehensive action to reduce smoking prevalence, involving a range of partners including the NHS and local authorities. To guide this action, the Department published "Excellence in tobacco control: 10 High impact changes to achieve tobacco control—An evidence based resource for local alliances" earlier this year. A copy has been placed in the Library.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients were admitted to hospital with a primary diagnosis of a disease which can be attributed to smoking in each of the last 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [234186]

Dawn Primarolo: This information is not available in the precise form requested. Data on NHS hospital admissions for adults aged 35 and over where there was primary diagnosis of diseases which can be caused by smoking over the period 1996-97 to 2006-07 are in the following table.

NHS[1] hospital admissions for adults aged 35 and over[2, 3] where there was primary diagnosis[4] of diseases[5] which can be caused by smoking. 1996-97 to 2006-07. England

Number of admissions

	All admissions which can be caused by smoking	*Cancers which can be caused by smoking[6]*	*Respiratory diseases which can be caused by smoking*	*Circulatory diseases which can be caused by smoking*	*Diseases of the digestive system which can be caused by smoking*	*Other diseases which can be caused by smoking*
1996-97	1,122,539	224,432	142,268	601,272	41,940	112,627
1997-98	1,182,940	253,268	139,481	629,282	43,420	117,489
1998-99	1,270,386	265,331	163,532	658,515	44,687	138,321
1999-2000	1,288,702	276,897	166,146	656,510	44,440	144,709
2000-01	1,277,830	274,216	152,154	651,566	41,422	158,472
2001-02	1,283,477	273,228	161,897	647,561	39,168	161,623
2002-03	1,337,860	283,503	168,838	666,149	38,877	180,493
2003-04	1,387,967	287,919	189,903	672,441	39,361	198,343
2004-05	1,406,264	294,443	195,817	674,539	38,306	203,159
2005-06	1,434,568	317,774	197,980	685,144	40,067	193,603
2006-07	1,431,831	324,936	201,578	679,625	42,038	183,654

[1] NHS hospitals and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by the NHS. The data include private patients in NHS hospitals (but not private patients in private hospitals).

[2] Figures are presented for adults aged 35 and over except for admissions for age related cataracts where patients must be 45 years and over and admissions for hip fracture where patients must be aged 55 years and older due to risk ratios only being available for these age groups.

[3] The figures exclude people whose gender was unknown or unspecified and whose country of residence was not confirmed as England.

[4] The primary diagnosis is the first of up to 14 (seven prior to 2002-03) diagnosis fields in the hospital episode statistics (HES) data set and provides the main reason why the patient was in hospital

[5] ICD-10 codes used have been updated since the 2007 bulletin. See Appendix C for corresponding ICD-10 codes used with aforementioned categories.

[6] Figures exclude admissions for cervical cancer whose gender was specified as male. *Source:*

Hospital Episode Statistics. The NHS Information Centre, 2008

Water: Pollution

Mr. Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his reasons were for rejecting funding applications for research into the deaths of two women with raised levels of brain aluminium, following the 1988 Lowermoor water poisoning episode; what the reasons were for not giving full access to his Department's records to the coroner over this matter as requested; whether officials who worked on the incident in 1988 have given advice to inform his latest decision; and whether he has consulted the Chief Medical Officer on the matter. [231819]

Mr. Bradshaw *[holding answer 30 October 2008]:* The Department has mechanisms to fund policy related research, but usually commissions such work by issuing a call for proposals for research to address the problem at hand and tendering. The Department would then use peer review to commission the most appropriate and promising proposal. This ensures that money is spent, and research commissioned, through a transparent process and one that is fair to all those who may be interested in carrying out the research. We would not normally respond to specific requests to fund specific researchers.

A substantive review of the potential health consequences of the chemicals released in the incident undertaken by the Committee on Toxicity (COT) Subgroup on the Lowermoor Water Pollution Incident, chaired by Professor Frank Woods, was to publish its final report in July. But that publication has been delayed by the inquiry at the request of the coroner. The subgroup report includes a number of conclusions and recommendations. These include a number of recommendations for further research. The main Committee is currently considering and refining these recommendations before putting them to the Department.

The coroner has not to our knowledge requested access to any Department's records.

Officials who worked on the incident in 1988 are no longer in the Department and were not asked for advice on this matter.

The Chief Medical Officer has not been consulted over this specific issue, although he is kept aware of developments in relation to. the work of the Committee on the Toxicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment (COT) Subgroup on the Lowermoor Water Pollution Incident. This subgroup has now prepared a final report but publication has been delayed at the request of the Coroner and on the advice of DH lawyers, for the duration of the inquest.

West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust: Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much was spent by West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust on salaries and wages for *(a)* general and senior managers, *(b)* nurses and midwives and *(c)* administrative and clerical staff in each year since its creation. [233846]

Ann Keen: West Hertfordshire Primary Care Trust (PCT) was established on 1 October 2006. Data are provided for 2006-07 and 2007-08 as follows.

		£000
	2006-07	*2007-08*
Managers and senior managers	5,421	7,661
Nursing, midwifery and health visiting staff	23,200	22,434
Administrative and clerical staff	5,288	5,500

Notes:

1. West Hertfordshire PCT was established on 1 October 2006 from four dissolving PCTs: St. Albans and Harpenden, Dacorum, Watford and Three Rivers and Hertsmere. Note that the 2006-07 figures contain data for the four former PCTs for the first six months of the financial year plus West Hertfordshire PCT for the second half of the financial year and may be distorted due to the merger. It is not possible to split the 2006-07 data between the former PCTs and West Hertfordshire PCT.
2. Data include salaries and wages, social security costs and pension contributions. It is not possible to separately identify salaries and wages for these groups of staff.
3. Figures include permanently employed staff and non-NHS staff, e.g. agency staff.

Source:

Information is from the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial returns for West Hertfordshire PCT. The data are not audited but are validated to the audited financial monitoring and accounts forms.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Access NI

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what assessment he has made of the performance of AccessNI against its objectives. [232878]

Paul Goggins: Since its launch in April 2008, AccessNI has received more than 70,000 disclosure applications. While AccessNI has maintained service delivery within the performance targets for basic and standard disclosures, it has failed to achieve its targets in relation to enhanced disclosures.

Additional resources have been made available and I remain confident that the four week target for enhanced disclosures will be achieved before the end of the year.

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* basic, *(b)* standard and *(c)* enhanced applications have been processed by AccessNI since 1 April 2008; and what percentage of these was completed within the relevant performance target time. [232879]

Paul Goggins: Statistics collated up to 31 October 2008 indicate that AccessNI has received 9,040 basic applications, 2,377 standard applications and 57,183 enhanced applications. During the period in question AccessNI has maintained a performance target to complete 90 per cent. of basic applications within two weeks and 90 per cent. of standard applications within three weeks.

Additional resources have been made available and I remain confident that the four week target for enhanced disclosures will be achieved before the end of the year.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233857]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office staff are expected to work conditioned hours, however there is a considerable amount of flexibility in the way staff are permitted to work. Flexible working time (that is, a flexible start and finish each day) is available to the majority of staff where operational/business needs permit.

In line with The Employment (NI) Order 2002 the Northern Ireland Office has processes in place to allow staff to request flexible working hours to enable them to balance their family and employment responsibilities.

The following table shows the percentage of staff on a flexible working contract (reduced hours, term-time full-time and term-time part-time) or job share employment contract at 3 November 2008.

Type of contract	*Number and percentage*
Total number of employees	2,152
Percentage of staff on flexible working contract	12.9
Percentage of staff on job share contract	1.3

Local managers may allow staff to work at home on an ad hoc basis. These arrangements are informal and no monitoring of this pattern of working is currently carried out. Information on this type of home working could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Consultants

Mr. Dodds: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many retired or former civil servants were employed as consultants by his Department in each year since 1998-99; and how much they were paid in each year. [232875]

Mr. Woodward: Information on retired or former civil servants employed by the Northern Ireland Office is not held centrally. To obtain this information could be done only at disproportionate cost.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on external consultants and advisers since May 2007. [234164]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent a total of £4,813,869 on external consultancy costs and £2,869,912 on advisors costs for the period May 2007 to March 2008.

Figures for the current financial year have not been included as they have not yet been audited and are therefore subject to change.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of official *(a)* emails, *(b)* telephone calls, *(c)* faxes and *(d)* letters his Department has received since May 2007. [234234]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office does not hold the information centrally and to obtain it would incur disproportionate cost.

However, the Department collates information for public letters and ministerial correspondence for the annual departmental report, as part of the six national standards for central Government which were introduced to the Department and its executive agencies from April 1997. The numbers of letters received in the period 1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007 is available in the departmental report which can be located on the NIO website at:

www.nio.gov.uk

or a copy is available in the Library.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on advertising in the last 12 months. [234169]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its Agencies and Executive NDPBs, spent £454,075 on advertising during 2007-08.

Departmental Official Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much was spent on overnight accommodation for his Department's staff in the last 12 months. [234242]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £200,601 on overnight accommodation during 2007-08.

Departmental Vehicles

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many vehicles his Department owns. [234245]

Mr. Woodward: The Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, owned three vehicles as at 30 September 2008. All three of these vehicles are tractors.

Economic Situation

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland Assembly on prospects for the Northern Ireland economy; [234190]

(2) how many meetings he has had with members of the business community in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months; [234226]

(3) what recent discussions he has had with the Northern Ireland *(a)* First Minister and *(b)* Deputy First Minister on the economy and businesses in Northern Ireland; [234259]

(4) what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the exposure of Northern Irish taxpayers to the liabilities of UK banks; [234295]

(5) what recent discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the impact on Northern Ireland banks of guarantees given by the Republic of Ireland to Irish banks. [234300]

Mr. Woodward: I have regular meetings with my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer, HM Treasury Ministers, the First and Deputy First Ministers, Northern Ireland Ministers and others including on a number of matters relating to the Northern Ireland economy and businesses.

I represent the interests of Northern Ireland within Cabinet and in my capacity as a member of the National Economic Council which my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister set up to co-ordinate economic policies across Government and assess the implications of the ongoing challenges in the financial markets for the United Kingdom.

Financial services and financial markets are not devolved matters and are the responsibility of Treasury Ministers, who also have discussions from time to time at the request of Northern Ireland Minsters on matters of mutual interest.

Those aspects of the economy which are devolved are the responsibility of the relevant Northern Ireland Ministers with whose officials mine liaise on an on-going basis.

In preparation for the very successful investment conference in May this year, I met various Northern Ireland and international business leaders and continue to maintain that contact.

Electronic Equipment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department has spent on electrical equipment in the last 12 months. [234241]

Mr. Woodward: In 2007-08, the Northern Ireland Office, excluding its agencies and executive NDPBs, spent £24,603 on electrical appliances where each appliance had a value of less than £1,000.

Electrical equipment with a value of more than £1,000 is classed as capital expenditure. Due to the structure of capital expenditure account codes, it would be possible to provide information on spend on electrical equipment where each appliance had a value greater than £1,000 only at disproportionate cost.

Irish Language

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what recent discussions he has had on the promotion of the Irish language in *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* elsewhere in the United Kingdom. [234163]

Mr. Woodward: I continue to have discussions with interested parties on a range issues, including the Irish language. The Northern Ireland (St. Andrews Agreement) Act 2006 placed a statutory duty on the Northern Ireland Executive Committee to

> "adopt a strategy setting out how it proposes to enhance and protect the development of the Irish language".

The UK Government remain committed to doing all they can to continue working with the Executive to this end.

Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235216]

Paul Goggins: Within the Northern Ireland Office two members of staff received an unsatisfactory report marking for the 2007-08 reporting period.

Police Service of Northern Ireland: Recruitment

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what percentage of recent recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland were from ethnic minorities; [234173]

(2) what percentage of the most recent cohort of recruits to the Police Service of Northern Ireland are from *(a)* Catholic and *(b)* Protestant backgrounds. [234248]

Paul Goggins: That is an operational matter for the Chief Constable. I have asked him to reply directly to the hon. Member, and a copy of his letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Accession Monitoring Report

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will place in the Library a copy of the EU's most recent Accession Monitoring Report for the A8 countries. [234197]

Mr. Woolas: The House of Commons Library retains electronic copies of the Accession Monitoring Report from May 2004 to date within the Statistics Resource Unit. Additionally some have been deposited and are available as Deposited Papers from the Members' Library.

The report is located on the House of Commons Library Catalogue.

The last published Accession Monitoring Report May 2004-June 2008 can be accessed on the UK Border Agency website on the following link:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/aboutus/reports/accession_monitoring_report/

The next report to September 2008 will be published on 19 November.

Asylum

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claimants from *(a)* Ghana, *(b)* Nigeria and *(c)* Poland have received indefinite leave to remain in the UK through (i) the 1998 backlog exercise, (ii) the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise, (iii) the legacy exercise, (iv) exceptional leave to remain, (v) discretionary leave to remain, (vi) humanitarian protection and (vii) the grant of refugee status in each year since 1997. [177409]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the number of nationals from Ghana, Nigeria and Poland who have received indefinite leave to remain in the UK through the 1998 backlog clearance exercise and the 2003 family indefinite leave to remain exercise is as follows. Information on the nationality breakdown of grants of leave to remain under the UKBA's case resolution programme were provided in the response given to the hon. Member on 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2348-49W.

Information on asylum initial decisions for nationals of Poland for 2005 and 2006 is as follows. Information for previous years and for nationals of Ghana and Nigeria are available from the annual Statistical Bulletin Asylum Statistics United Kingdom.

Since the accession of Poland to the EU on 1 May 2004 Polish nationals have not been subject to immigration control and have had the ability to exercise EU rights of movement and residence in the UK. Full access to the UK labour market was also provided under the terms of workers registration scheme.

Copies of these publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration1.html.

Nationals of Nigeria, Ghana and Poland, granted exceptional leave under the 1998 backlog criteria[1] [2] [3], excluding dependants, 1999 and 2000

	Principal applicants	
	Total	
Country of nationality	1999	2000
Nigeria	765	290
Ghana	1,415	90
Poland	20	10

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Cases decided under measures aimed at reducing the pre-1996 asylum application backlog.

[3] Includes cases where asylum or exceptional leave has been granted under the backlog criteria.

Grants of ILR issued under the family ILR exercise as at 7 December 2007[1] [2] [3], excluding dependants, for nationals of Nigeria, Ghana and Poland

Country of nationality	Total principal applicants
Nigeria	1,175
Ghana	620
Poland	580

[1] Provisional figures rounded to the nearest five.

[2] Main asylum applicants.

[3] This information is based on internal management information and therefore provisional.

Initial decisions made on asylum applications[1] [2], excluding dependants, 2005 and 2006 for nationals of Poland

	Principal applicants	
Initial decisions	2005	2006[3]
Total decisions	10	5
Grants of asylum	0	0
Grants of HP	0	0
Grants of DL	0	0
Total refusals	10	5

[1] Figures rounded to nearest five.

[2] Information is of initial decisions, excluding the outcome of appeals or other subsequent decisions.

[3] Provisional figures.

Source:

RDS-IRS

Mr. Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many asylum claims were decided in each of the last 11 years; how many claims were granted in each of those years; how many dependants were included in those successful claims; how many people were granted extended leave to remain or humanitarian protection in each of those years; how many dependants were included in those grants; how many claimants were refused in each of those years; and how many dependants were included in those refused claims. [233650]

Mr. Woolas: The following table gives published figures available for the last 11 years.

Information on asylum is published annually and quarterly. Annual statistics for 2007 and quarterly statistics for 2008 are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics Directorate website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Applications[1] [2] received for asylum in the United Kingdom and initial decisions 1997 to 2007

	1997	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007[7]
Including dependants											
Initial decisions											
Total	48,530	42,905	45,850	132,925	155,900	103,450	80,370	55,390	33,210	25,475	26,665
Granted asylum	6,210	8,245	10,405	12,135	14,755	10,990	5,380	2,160	2,470	2,630	4,495
Granted exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave[3]	4,740	6,455	4,640	12,645	26,025	22,470	7,805	4,195	2,955	2,410	2,315
Refused asylum, ELR, HP and DL	37,585	28,205	13,915	92,330	115,120	69,990	67,185	49,040	27,780	20,430	19,850
Granted exceptional leave under backlog criteria[4,5]	n/a	n/a	15,195	14,045	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Refused on non-compliance grounds under backlog criteria[4,6]	n/a	n/a	1,690	1,775	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Dependants only											
Initial decisions											
Total	12,485	11,335	12,125	23,720	34,955	19,910	15,430	9,370	5,815	4,545	4,890

Applications[1, 2] received for asylum in the United Kingdom and initial decisions 1997 to 2007

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*[7]
Granted asylum	2,225	2,900	2,590	1,765	3,310	2,720	1,515	595	530	465	950
Granted exceptional leave to remain, humanitarian protection or discretionary leave[3]	1,625	2,545	2,175	1,150	5,835	2,330	595	200	155	105	120
Refused asylum, ELR, HP and DL	8,640	5,890	2,895	16,650	25,810	14,860	13,320	8,575	5,130	3,975	3,820
Granted exceptional leave under backlog criteria[4,5]	n/a	n/a	4,055	3,720	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
Refused on non-compliance grounds under backlog criteria[4,5]	n/a	n/a	415	440	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = not applicable

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five.

[2] From 1998 to 2001 dependants figures are estimated. Including dependants who applied with the principal applicant and those who arrived subsequently but before the principal application was decided. Figures from 2002 are based on actual data.

[3] Humanitarian protection (HP) and discretionary leave (DL) replaced exceptional leave to remain from 1 April 2003.

[4] Cases decided under measures aimed at reducing the pre 1996 asylum application backlog.

[5] Includes cases where asylum or exceptional leave has been granted under the backlog criteria.

[6] Includes some cases where the application has been refused on substantive grounds.

[7] Provisional figures.

Asylum: Iraq

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Iraqis have been granted resettlement in the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme since its inception. [233222]

Mr. Woolas: As of 28 October, 123 locally employed staff have been resettled to the UK under the Locally Employed Staff Assistance Scheme since its inception.

The figures quoted are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what percentage of employees in her Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233830]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the percentage of employees working on flexible working contracts, job share employment contracts or working from home for more than four hours per week is not held centrally. This information can be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from her Department in each year since 1997. [234090]

Mr. Woolas: The table contains the information requested for each year from 2002 to 2008. No information is available for years prior to 2002.

It should be noted that these figures include equipment lost and stolen from both the core Home Office and the United Kingdom Border Agency.

	2002		*2003*		*2004*		*2005*		*2006*		*2007*		*2008*	
	Lost	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*	*Lost*	*Stolen*
Memory sticks	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	1	3	0
Laptops	3	12	2	12	3	20	2	24	2	9	7	22	3	14
Desktops	0	15	0	0	0	65	0	22	0	0	0	0	0	0
Hard drives	0	21	0	39	0	13	0	12	0	0	0	2	0	0
Mobile phones	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0

Notes:

1. DSU's recorded figures only go back as far as 2002 and therefore cannot give information from 1997 to 2001.
2. These figures are for core Home Office and UKBA.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what losses which it incurred her Department was granted Treasury approval in each of the last five years. [234453]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has not incurred losses that were in excess of delegated authority in any of the last five years. As such, no Treasury approval was required.

Dungavel Detention Centre

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what proportion of individuals held at Dungavel detention centre in each of the last five years had criminal records in respect of offences committed *(a)* in the UK and *(b)* overseas. [232799]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* We do not hold this data centrally and to provide them would require each detainee's file to be inspected independently which would be at disproportionate cost. All detainees are, however, risk assessed before being transferred to Dungavel Immigration Removal Centre, which includes a check against the police national computer to highlight criminal records and any other known risk factors.

Genetics: Databases

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what race equality impact assessment has been made of the national DNA database. [195732]

Mr. Alan Campbell: A stage 1 equality impact assessment (EIA) of the National DNA database (NDNAD) was conducted by the National Policing Improvement Agency (NPIA) in June-July 2007. This was an initial screening process to identify any potential equality issues in NDNAD processes. It made a number of recommendations which are being progressed by a working group comprising NPIA officials and representatives from the Association of Chief Police Officers (ACPO) and the NDNAD Ethics Group. It also recommended that the EIA should be reviewed after further information had been gathered in 12 months' time.

The NPIA also carried out an initial stage 1 equality impact assessment of the ACPO DNA Good Practice Guide in June 2007. The ACPO guide provides good practice guidance for police forces on the use of DNA, including the taking of DNA samples from persons in custody. The stage 1 EIA made 10 recommendations which are also currently under consideration by the working group.

The working group has met several times since early autumn 2007. It has considered all the recommendations from both stage 1 EIAs and future action required. This consideration initiated the stage 2 EIA review process which is on-going, looking at any potential equality issues which were identified in greater depth. Work on some of the actions has been completed, but work on the majority is still in progress.

Copies of the two stage 1 assessments have been placed in the Library. It is anticipated that the stage 2 assessments will be available in December 2008. Copies of the stage 2 EIAs will be published on the NPIA website in late 2008 or early 2009.

Immigration

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to enable parents of dependent children, where the children are UK citizens and the parents foreign nationals, to work. [233729]

Mr. Woolas: A parent of a child who is a British citizen is entitled to work in the UK if they have been granted leave on the basis of employment; leave on the basis of their relationship with a British citizen or settled person; leave as a student, provided they work only part-time during term time or full-time during vacations; discretionary leave, refugee status or humanitarian protection; or indefinite leave to remain.

In addition, an asylum applicant may apply for permission to take up employment if a decision at first instance has not been taken on the applicant's asylum application within one year of the date on which it was recorded. The application to take employment will be considered only if the delay in reaching a decision cannot be attributed to the applicant. If permission to work is granted, this precludes self-employment, business or professional activity.

National Asylum Support Service Policy Bulletin 85

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for what reason the National Asylum Support Service Policy Bulletin 85 does not apply to failed asylum seekers *(a)* in receipt of Section 4 support and *(b)* without dependent children. [233767]

Mr. Woolas: Policy Bulletin 85 (Dispersing Asylum Seekers with Health Care Needs) does not apply to supported persons in receipt of support under section 4 of the Immigration and Asylum Act 1999, because the policy bulletin was published in December 2005, which was before we dispersed those in receipt of section 4 support. Policy Bulletin 85 will be replaced by a new asylum instruction which will cover those in receipt of section 4 support. The new asylum instruction has already been consulted on and the UK Border Agency aims to publish the new instruction before the end of the year.

The principles set out in Policy Bulletin 85 on health care similarly apply to the dispersal of those granted support under section 4, regardless of whether there are dependants. Information on the dispersal of section 4 supported persons is set out within policy bulletin 31 (Dispersal Guidelines) and in the Section 4 Support Asylum Instruction. Information on health treatment available to refused asylum seekers is set out within the Section 4 "Frequently Asked Questions" guidance document.

Plain English

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department paid to the Plain English Campaign for *(a)* corporate membership fees, *(b)* additional training for officials, *(c)* use of the Approved by Plain English Campaign mark on documents, *(d)* use of the Internet Crystal Mark on her Department's website and *(e)* other fees in each year since 1997-98. [234450]

Mr. Woolas: The Home Office has held corporate membership of the Plain English Campaign since 2000 and Life membership since 2006. The following table provides available information on the payments made to the Plain English Campaign since 2000. A more detailed breakdown of expenditure could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

	Corporate membership	£ Other
2000-04	[1]14,100	n/a
2004-05	2,350	21,301.49
2005-06	3,525	20,840.32
2006-07	[1]3,525	5,896.03
2007-08	0	1,527.50

n/a = Not available

[1] Over the five year period

UK Border Agency: Lost Property

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether compensation is given or dispensation made to an applicant when the UK Border Agency accepts that it has misplaced or lost their file. [234022]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency will consider paying compensation for the financial loss of reasonable costs necessarily incurred by an individual as a consequence of documents being lost while being processed by the Agency.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what happens to the case of an applicant when the UK Border Agency accepts that it has permanently lost the applicant's file. [234023]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency decides on a case by case basis what measures are required to address any loss of an applicant's file.

Dr. Iddon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many files relating to applications for leave to remain have been lost in transit between units of the UK Border Agency in the last three years. [234024]

Mr. Woolas: The information is not available in the form requested.

The UK Border Agency maintains a rolling programme of locating files, and parts of files, which have been identified as lost. On 10 November there were 17,208 principal files recorded as lost which is approximately 0.2 per cent. of the overall file holding.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234702]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are not aware of any organisation for which the Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs is responsible that *(a)* use or *(b)* plan to use Airwave handsets.

Animals: Diseases

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Department of Health on the interrelationships between animal and human disease; and what diseases have been discussed. [233875]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA and its agencies are involved in many cross government committees which include representatives from the Department of Health (DH) and its agencies. These committees facilitate discussion on human and animal related diseases of both domestic and international importance. This collaboration enables informed decisions to be made regarding planning and control, horizon scanning for new and emerging diseases and the development and implementation of various cross-government strategies.

Recent collaborations between DEFRA, the DH and their agencies include investigations into the recent outbreak of Avian Influenza in Dorset and Suffolk, co-ordinating West Nile Virus surveillance activities of both humans and wild birds, management of the Salmonella National Control Programme, and developing public health evidence to support current UK tick and tapeworm control measures.

In response to the October Anthrax incident, DEFRA is working closely with the Health Protection Agency, the DH and local authorities to ensure effective containment measures are in place and subsequent investigations carried out. DEFRA is also collaborating with the Health and Safety Executive on the National Bovine TB strategy, and surveillance of Q-Fever in the UK.

BSE: Disease Control

Mr. Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when his Department expects to be able to provide a surveillance system to identify bovine spongiform encephalopathies and other transmissible spongiform encephalopathies in slaughtered cattle and fallen stock. [233427]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA tested over 394,000 cattle for bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in Great Britain in 2007, including all suspected BSE cases, all fallen stock aged over-24-months and all healthy slaughtered cattle aged over-30-months. This testing identified 53 BSE cases, at a cost of over £55 million. DEFRA has produced a report on BSE surveillance for the Food Standards Agency. The report will be published on the DEFRA website.

Carbon Emissions: Construction

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the environmental effects of actions required to meet the target of building three million new homes by 2020. [233728]

Mr. Iain Wright: I have been asked to reply.

The Housing Green Paper 'Homes for the future: more affordable, more sustainable' (published in July 2007) outlined the Government's plans to achieve higher housing supply targets. It also set out a range of actions to address the challenge of climate change and to protect the environment. The Housing Green Paper was subject to an impact assessment, which includes a specific impact test on sustainable development, carbon assessment and other environmental assessments. This was published alongside the Housing Green Paper and its sister documents. These documents have been placed in the House Library.

It is for regional spatial strategies to determine the appropriate level of housing growth and the best location for it in their region. A sustainability appraisal, incorporating a strategic environmental assessment, is part of the process of preparing regional spatial strategies.

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr. Paice: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the estimated value was of direct aid under the Common Agricultural Policy in each of the last five years, broken down by product; and by what date this support will be phased out in each case, where applicable. [230869]

Jane Kennedy: The European Commission list direct aid amounts as presented in table 1. Only some of this support is coupled, as table 1 makes clear.

Table 1: EU direct aids for budget, 2003 to 2009

€ million

	2009[1]	*2008*[1]	*2007*	*2006*	*2005*	*2004*	*2003*
Decoupled direct aids							
SPS	28,450	27,220	28,119	14,226	0	0	0
SAPS	3,808	3,065	2,083	1,721	1,449	0	0
Separate sugar payment	255	209	167	0	0	0	0
Separate fruit and vegetables payment	12	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other direct aids							
Arable Crops	1,850	1,852	1,853	7,951	17,158	17,095	16,251
Beef	1,661	1,659	1,697	2,637	7,730	7,312	7,363
Sheep and Goats	326	335	330	907	1,837	1,471	2,084
Dairy	0	0	0	1,454	1,370	0	0
POSEI	422	418	81	81	185	110	244
Fruit and Veg[2]	429	224	202	255	483	595	544
Sugar	26	30	17	0	0	0	0
Rice	173	171	173	261	427	110	117
Olive groves	98	98	119	2,312	2,240	2,302	2,318
Tobacco	305	293	336	811	918	924	950
Silkworms	1	1	1	0	0	0	0
Cotton	262	260	254	0	0	0	0
Payments for specific types of farming and quality production	438	435	420	199	0	0	0
Other (direct aids)	—	—	761	958	75	0	0
Additional amounts of aid	562	563	434	316	0	0	0
Ancillary direct aids (reliquats, small producers, agrimonetary aids, etc.)	0	0	0	0	4	1	-7
Recoveries	0	0	0	-39	-21	-12	-1
Total	39,077	36,832	37,046	34,051	33,856	29,908	29,864

[1] Data for these years is based on budget commitments, rather than actual spending.

[2] Includes starch potatoes and grain legumes.

Source:

Draft General Budget 2009, EC.

Agreement has been reached on phasing out several of the remaining coupled payments, with their amounts usually being added to the decoupled SPS and SAPS, such that decoupling is budget neutral. The payments involved and relevant dates are presented in table 2. Decoupling is also a major focus of the current health check negotiations, where agreement is expected to be reached on phasing out several other coupled payments (with their amounts again being added to the SPS and SAPS), with expected phase-outs as presented in table 3. The UK "Vision for the Common Agricultural Policy" is clear that in the longer term, direct payments should be phased out completely, with payments to farmers targeted at delivering public benefits, including environmental benefits, through a re-shaped pillar two.

Table 2: Direct Aids already scheduled to be decoupled (or not scheduled to be decoupled)

Sector	*Current situation*	*When scheduled to be phased out*
POSEI (payments for bananas in the outermost regions)	75 per cent. coupled contribution to national assistance programmes for banana growers	No end date is fixed for this aid

Table 2: Direct Aids already scheduled to be decoupled (or not scheduled to be decoupled)

Sector	*Current situation*	*When scheduled to be phased out*
Fruit and vegetables	The EU Processed Fruit and Vegetables Regime was subject to major reform in 2007, with agreement reached on a phased approach to full decoupling: Tomatoes for processing—member states may allow a maximum four-year transitional period provided that the coupled element of the payment does not exceed 50 per cent. of the corresponding component of the national ceiling Other processing aids—member states may allow a maximum five-year transitional period until at the latest 31 December 2012, provided that after 31 December 2010, the coupled proportion of the payment does not exceed 75 per cent. of the corresponding component of the national ceiling in 2011 and 2012 respectively	Tomatoes for processing: 1 January 2012 Other processing aids: 1 January 2013
Sugar	There are no direct aids in the sugar sector, but there is a transitional fund to help the sugar sector restructure There are also separate sugar payments as part of the Single Payment Scheme	The transitional aid is due to end in 2010
Tobacco	Progressive reduction in coupled support from 2006 to 2010	2010
Silkworms	100 per cent. coupled payment.	No end date is fixed for this payment
Cotton	65 per cent./35 per cent. split of decoupled/coupled payments	Agriculture Council agreed in 2008 to maintain coupled aid payments at these levels

Table 3: Health check proposals for decoupling

Sector	*Current situation*	*Health Check proposal*
Crops	Member states may retain partial coupled payments in: Arable Crops Payments (up to 25 per cent.) Durum Wheat Quality Supplement (up to 40 per cent.) Hops (up to 25 per cent.) 100 per cent. exclusion of certain or all species	Full decoupling from 2010 and integrate into Single Payment Scheme (SPS)
Olive oil	Aid for olive groves could remain up to 40 per cent. coupled	Full decoupling in 2010 and integration in SPS
Livestock	Member States may retain coupled payments in:	Slaughter premium for young animals, slaughter premium for adult animals and special beef premium: full decoupling in two steps (50 per cent. coupled in 2010, 50 per cent. coupled in 2011 and 100 per cent. decoupled in 2012 and onwards). Shift to SPS
	Suckler Cow Premium (up to 100 per cent.) Special beef premium (up to 75 per cent.) Slaughter Premium (up to 40 per cent. for adults and 100 per cent. for calves) Sheep and Goats (up to 50 per cent.)	No change in suckler cow and sheep and goatmeat
Flax and Hemp	Option of 25 per cent. partial coupling as arable crops area payment. Short fibre flax to be phased out in 2008-09. Long fibre flax to be increased to €40/tonne in 2009-10.	Decouple long fibre flax processing aid and shift to SPS in 2 steps: 50 per cent. in 2011 and full decoupling in 2013.
Dried Fodder	Retain processing aid (per tonne, uniform for dehydrated and dried fodder)	Decouple processing aid and shift to SPS in 2011
Starch potato	Aid for starch producers (60 per cent. of pre-2003 level) paid per tonne of starch delivered. A transformation aid is granted to the manufacturers per tonne of potato starch with guaranteed minimum prices within the quota limit. Finally, production refunds for starch are granted when using starch for the production of certain goods	Decouple aid to growers and shift to SPS (phasing out in 2013, in two steps: 50 per cent. in 2011 and full decoupling in 2013); decouple processing aid and shift to SPS in 2011; removal of quotas by 2013; abolish production refund in 2009

Table 3: Health check proposals for decoupling

Sector	*Current situation*	*Health Check proposal*
Energy crop premium	Aid of EUR 45 per hectare for energy crops for the production of biofuels and electric and thermal energy produced from biomass	Abolish in 2010
Durum Wheat	Aid of EUR 40 per hectare, granted subject to the use of certain quantities of certified seeds of varieties recognised as being of high quality for the production of semolina or pasta	Abolition and shift to SPS in 2010
Protein crops	Aid of EUR 55, 57 per hectare of protein crops (peas, field beans, lupins)	Decouple and shift into SPS in 2010
Specific payment for rice	Aid per hectare, the value set according to the yields in the member states concerned	Decouple and shift to SPS (50 per cent. in 2010 and further 50 per cent. in 2012)
Nuts	Aid per hectare granted to farmers producing nuts, with a possibility of granting additional national aid	Decouple and shift to SPS in 2010
Single Area Payment Scheme (SAPS)	New member states have to change to SPS by 2010-11	Prolong possibility of applying SAPS until end 2013

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230207]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Civil Service Management Code sets out the requirements for Departments to have procedures in place to deal with conduct and disciplinary issues. The DEFRA procedures are laid down in the staff handbook which is accessed on the departmental intranet. The sanctions available to the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are as follows:

Written reprimand;

Written warnings;

Denial of pay award or reduction in pay;

Payment in restitution, in whole or in part;

Culpable loss or damage caused by the offender;

Suspension of pay;

Loss of seniority;

Ban on promotion or consideration for promotion, including temporary additional responsibility allowance (TARA), for a specific period;

Downgrading, incl[illegible]val from a post attracting additional pay or allowances;

Transfer to a new location;

Dismissal.

The number of times that the aforementioned sanctions have been confirmed in the last three financial years are listed as follows. The dismissal sanction represents the final outcome of disciplinary action taken in an individual misconduct case.

Sanction	*Number*
1 April 2005 to 31 March 2006	
Dismissals	6
Written reprimands	1
1 April 2006 to 31 March 2007	
Dismissals	6
Written reprimands	1
Written warnings	2
Transfer to new location	1
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	
Dismissals	2
Written warnings	1

Departmental ICT

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what IT projects *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each of its agencies is undertaking; and what the most recent estimate of (i) the cost and (ii) the completion date of each is. [229162]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table details current major IT projects in DEFRA and its largest executive agencies, the Rural Payments Agency and Animal Health.

The projects detailed are those which cost more than £1 million over the life of the project. Costs listed as follows exclude day-to-day running costs after the completion of the project.

Projects costing less than £1 million and those within smaller Executive Agencies have been excluded as data collection for these would incur a disproportionate cost to the Department to compile.

Project	*Expected completion date*	*Estimated costs £*
Animal Health Business Reform Programme	March 2011	98,000,000
Cap Health Check Implementation Programme	November 2009	25,300,000
Customer Land Database (CLAD)	October 2009	1,730,600
Enabling Technology	March 2009	4,223,000
INSPIRE/UK Location Strategy Implementation Programme	December 2012	12,800,000
Renew IT	March 2009	3,810,000
Rural Payments Agency Managed Document Service	March 2009	2,300,000

Project	Expected completion date	Estimated costs £
Rural Payments Agency Rural Land Register Upgrade	March 2012	23,000,000
Rural Payments Agency Single Payment System Upgrade (including CAP Health Check)	November 2009	23,700,000
Rural Payments Agency Storage Servers Upgrade	March 2010	3,400,000
Spatial Information Repository (SPIRE)	August 2009	14,965,000
Web Rationalisation	March 2011	1,440,000
Whole Farm Approach	March 2011	74,000,000

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many press officers were employed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* his Department's arm's length bodies in each year since 2001. [233425]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The following table shows the number of press officers and media relations staff employed by DEFRA and its agencies in the past two financial years. Information for earlier years and for DEFRA's NDPBs could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Department/agency	2007-08	2008-09
DEFRA	20	15
Animal Health	0.25	0.25
Central Science Laboratory	0	0
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	1	1
Government Decontamination Service	0	0
Marine and Fisheries Agency	0.1	0.1
Rural Payments Agency[1]	1	1
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	0	0
Veterinary Medicines Agency	0	0

[1] RPA employed agency people during the period and their role included communications tasks outside the specific press office/media function.

Departmental Ministerial Policy Advisers

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost of provision of Government cars to special advisers in his Department has been in the last 12 months. [233242]

Huw Irranca-Davies: On most occasions, special advisers travel in the same cars as Ministers or departmental officials, and it is not possible to disaggregate the costs of their car travel, since records are not kept of who travelled in which car. The total cost of provision of government cars to special advisers when travelling on official business on their own was £387.08 in the past 12 months.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [233251]

Huw Irranca-Davies: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However I can confirm that all ministerial advisers and press officers work within the provisions set out in the code of conduct for special advisers and the civil service code respectively.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its executive agencies spent on (i) recruitment consultants and (ii) external recruitment advertising to recruit staff in each of the last five financial years; which recruitment consultants were employed for those purposes in each of those years; and if he will make a statement. [226801]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Any expenditure on recruitment consultants and on external recruitment advertising is subject to value for money considerations and the requirements of Managing Public Money. The central rules on recruitment are set out in Chapter 1.1 of the Civil Service Management Code. There is a central framework of executive search services owned by the Cabinet Office. This framework provides access to the most effective recruitment agencies and provides value for money through a single Government wide contract.

Work is currently under way to improve further the efficiency of civil service recruitment through better use of online advertising; reductions in recruitment advertising costs for the whole civil service; improving value for money from head-hunters and recruitment consultants; and a professional development programme to improve further the skills and knowledge of HR recruiters.

Emerge Recycling

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department and its agencies has given to Emerge Recycling in the last 24 months. [233257]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: In the last 24 months Emerge recycling have received approximately £30,000 under the WRAP Batteries Programme which ran from April 2006 to April 2008.

Flood Control: Finance

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much his Department has spent on flood defences in each of the last five years. [233933]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: DEFRA provides funding to operating authorities for flood defences from the allocation of funding for Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management. Over the past five financial years this allocation totalled:

Financial year	DEFRA funding (£ million)
2007-08	502.7
2006-07	505.2
2005-06	514.8
2004-05	415.8
2003-04	135.5

Lighting

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what percentage of light bulbs used in his Department are energy-saving models. [233357]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 5 November 2008]:* The Department is continually improving the energy saving measures employed within its departmental buildings. Across the Department's London offices it is estimated that in excess of 95 per cent. of lighting is of an energy saving design. In our principal office locations in York and Alnwick, all internal office lighting is of an energy saving design. As to the wider provincial offices, the exact percentage of energy saving lighting is unknown.

Religious Buildings: Fees and Charges

Robert Neill: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Warley of 9 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 760W, on waste charges: religious buildings, (1) whether an impact assessment was undertaken to assess the effect of the new water charges on places of worship and other voluntary group's premises; [232585]

(2) what the average increase to the water bill for churches and other places of worship is. [232593]

Jane Kennedy: Neither DEFRA nor Ofwat, the independent economic regulator of the water industry, collects information on the increases in water bills for groups of customers of a particular funding or charitable status. Where a company makes a change to the way it charges for water or sewerage services, Ofwat challenges the company's proposals to make sure charges are not unduly preferential to one customer group over another. Groups of customers are defined by the costs they are likely to impose and are independent of the financial or charitable status of individual non-household customers. Ofwat's checks also ensure that the company gains no additional revenue from the new method of charging.

Waste Management

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many deregistrations there were under the provisions of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 following offences under regulation 19 in each of the last 15 years. [233354]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 5 November 2008]:* The Environment Agency has de-registered 2,188 exemptions concerning paragraph 19 (waste for construction) of the Waste Management Licensing Regulations 1994 over the period requested. Exemptions may be de-registered for a number of reasons including where the commission of an offence means that the operation is no longer exempt.

Period		
From	*To*	*De-registered*
1April 2008	31 October 2008	57
1 April 2007	31 March 2008	64
1 April 2006	31 March 2007	405
1 April 2005	31 March 2006	465
1 April 2004	31 March 2005	190
1 April 2003	31 March 2004	233
1 April 2002	31 March 2003	49
1 April 2001	31 March 2002	54
1 April 2000	31 March 2001	624
1 April 1999	31 March 2000	0
1 April 1998	31 March 1999	5
1 April 1997	31 March 1998	11
1 April 1996	31 March 1997	9
1 April 1995	31 March 1996	22
1 April 1994	31 March 1995	0
Total	—	2,188

Water: Fees and Charges

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average percentage change in domestic water bills has been in each local authority area in the East of England since May 1997. [232619]

Jane Kennedy: Average bill information is not available at local authority level.

Wetlands: Flood Control

Mr. Pelling: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent work his Department has undertaken on the role of wetlands in flood defence. [232686]

Jane Kennedy: DEFRA and the Environment Agency operate a joint R and D programme. Within this programme various studies have been made of the role of land management, including wetlands, on flood risk management. Most notably, my Department published the finding of a major review of the impacts of rural land use and management on flood generation in November 2004. Subsequently, further work was commissioned on the analysis of historical data sets to look for the impacts of land use and management change on flood generation. The final report will be published in the near future. The Environment Agency takes into account the role that washlands or wetlands may play in flood management when it is considering specific flood management problems.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Africa: Economic Growth

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effects of African revenue authorities' administration on business and economic growth. [233803]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: During 2005 to 2007, DFID and the World Bank group's Foreign Investment Advisory Service (FIAS) evaluated how tax policy and its administration shaped the investment climate in 13 countries in Africa and the middle east. This indicated that tax policy and administration do not enable business and promote growth in most developing countries. Even in the countries which have in place appropriate taxes at appropriate rates, weak tax administration results in a heavy financial and time burden for businesses, especially for small and medium enterprises.

The studies, which were endorsed by a DFID/FIAS supported conference in Zambia in February 2007 of senior officials from Africa, showed that past donor assistance on tax had too often been fragmented between policy and administration. Tax reform had tended to focus on short-term revenue generation rather than structuring the tax system to promote economic efficiency and growth (and therefore longer-term revenue generation). This requires promoting investment, private sector development and the creation of a culture of compliance. DFID and FIAS have now initiated a project to help address such problems, by developing and piloting best practice policy guidance and support for implementation.

Africa: International Assistance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Africa Investment Climate Facility. [233796]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Investment Climate Facility (ICF) is a novel partnership between private companies, development partners and Governments to improve the investment climate in African countries. An independent review of ICF will be conducted in 2009.

The Department for International Development (DFID) has closely followed the development of the organisation through the Technical Advisory Committee and Annual Meetings. DFID has also seconded a senior official to work in the ICF Secretariat. ICF has quickly become effective in building up its project portfolio. The Board has approved 20 projects but it is too early to assess effectiveness fully. Recently, the ICF published its first Project Completion Report. The project created a productive dialogue between businesses, the East African Community and customs authorities in East Africa. Many of the project's recommendations for customs reforms have been implemented, leading to significant reductions in delays and costs to businesses in importing and exporting goods.

Bangladesh: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to improve the competitiveness of businesses in Bangladesh. [233792]

Mr. Michael Foster: The UK Government are providing £20 million to the Bangladesh Investment Climate Facility (BICF) to assist the Government's Regulatory Reforms Commission and Better Business Forum, to improve this business environment and reduce costs. For example, there has recently been a 50 per cent. reduction to the costs of registering a business due to BICF inputs. We are also working with the Government of Bangladesh and the World Bank to help set up large economic zones that will provide businesses with cheaper access to land serviced with a constant supply of utilities such as electricity.

In the export sector, Bangladesh needs to remain competitive with other producers in the Asia region. Therefore, the UK has been promoting social compliance standards, like health and safety concerns in the garments sector, to enable Bangladesh businesses to meet the standards required by U.S. and European buyers.

Finally, the UK is providing £11.8 million to Katalyst (Phase I), an organisation whose purpose is to increase the competitiveness of local micro, small, and medium enterprises in key urban and rural sectors in Bangladesh. By 2009, the Katalyst project will have contributed to the creation of 180,000 jobs through its work on making 800,000 farms and businesses more competitive. By 2015, Phase 2 of the project is projected to benefit 1.2 million enterprises and commercial farms—employing three million people in 26 sectors.

Cambodia

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the public financial management reform programme in Cambodia. [233802]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) participates annually in the joint Government-donor review of the public financial management reform programme, with the most recent taking place in May 2008. Issues relating to public financial management also form part of the IMF's Article IV consultations and are a central feature of policy dialogue with budget support donors. These require regular reporting from Government and ongoing monitoring by development partners, including DFID.

Since 2005, reform of public financial management has already delivered significant improvements in terms of revenue management and budget credibility. Tax revenues continue to grow, with a 37 per cent. increase during the first three quarters of 2008 compared to the same period in 2007; revenue out-turn up to September 2008 is 99 per cent. of budget forecast (compared to 85 per cent. in 2007); and Government have spent 72 per cent. of their budget in the first three quarters of 2008 (compared to 62 per cent. in 2007). In December, the Government will launch a second phase of the programme. This will build on these successes and provide additional focus to financial management in line ministries. It will also address outstanding issues from the first phase, including the integration of recurrent and capital budgets, and strengthen the links between planning, budgeting and expenditure.

Departmental Buildings

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of the hon. Member for Rochford and Southend East of 6 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 101-102W, on departmental buildings, what the cost of each refurbishment was. [233419]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The information requested is as follows:

Country office	*Place*	*Classification*	*Completed*	*Cost (£)*
DFID Pakistan	Islamabad	New build and refurbishment	May 2006	2,450,000
DFID Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	New build	September 2006	3,350,000
DFID Sudan	Khartoum	New build and refurbishment	November 2007	2,700,00
DFID Afghanistan	Kabul	New build	August 2006	1,100,000
DFID Uganda	Kampala	New build	December 2007	3,950,000
DFID Nigeria	Kano	Refurbishment	October 2006	122,000
DFID Nigeria	Abuja	Refurbishment	July 2008	297,000
DFID Indonesia	Jakarta	Refurbishment	July 2008	47,000

Developing Countries: Construction

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of work undertaken in relation to developing countries by the Construction Sector Transparency Initiative. [233775]

Mr. Thomas: The Construction Sector Transparency (CoST) initiative was launched in Tanzania on 22 May 2008. It is too early at this stage to evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative. A series of baseline studies will be initiated in each pilot country providing a basis against which the effectiveness of CoST will be assessed.

Progress has been made in the set up of CoST. An international secretariat has been appointed and is now working with seven countries to establish local multi-stakeholder groups—including Government, private sector and civil society—which will then agree and take forward country work programmes. The Governments of Ethiopia, Malawi, Philippines, Tanzania, United Kingdom, Vietnam and Zambia have all committed to implement the pilot programme. The World Bank and Secretariat are active in providing technical support to these CoST countries. An International Advisory Group (IAG), made up of representatives from CoST countries, international NGOs, construction companies, and professional organisations as well as DFID and the World Bank has been set up to review outcomes of the pilot programme. The first meeting of the IAG will be held in Manila, Philippines in January 2009.

Developing Countries: Economic Growth

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when the study by the School of Oriental and African Studies of the governance capabilities and reforms that facilitate high growth over a long period will be published. [233795]

Mr. Michael Foster: Professor Mushtaq Khan from the School of Oriental and African Studies (SOAS) is undertaking a research programme entitled Growth and Governance Research. The first part of the report is due in mid-November 2008 and the subsequent parts of this research will be reported on in 2009. Each of the reports will appear on the Department for International Development's (DFID) Research for Development portal:

http://www.research4development.info/

Developing Countries: Medical Treatments

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the country pilots launched by the Medicines Transparency Alliance on increasing transparency and accountability in the medicines supply chain. [233776]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Medicines Transparency Alliance (MeTA) was launched by the Secretary of State on 15 May 2008. It is too early at this stage to evaluate the effectiveness of this initiative. Scoping reports that informed the design of MeTA, and a series of baseline studies now being initiated in each country, will provide a basis against which the effectiveness of MeTA can be judged at the end of the pilot phase. Effectiveness will be measured in terms of increased transparency and accountability around the price, availability, quality and promotion of medicines.

Progress has been made in implementing MeTA. An international secretariat has been appointed and is now working with seven countries to establish local multi-stakeholder groups—including Government, private sector and civil society—which will then agree and take forward country work programmes. The Philippines is already implementing MeTA and launch dates have been set in Ghana, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan and Peru. Work continues with Uganda and Zambia to finalise their plans. The World Bank and World Health Organisation are active in providing technical support to MeTA countries. And the first meeting of the International Advisory Group was successfully held in London in September. It was attended by representatives from the MeTA countries and leading figures from international NGOs, pharmaceutical companies, professional organisations, investors and international development partners.

Further information on MeTA can be found at

www.medicinestransparency.org.

Developing Countries: Natural Resources

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made through the United Nations in establishing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative as a global standard. [233777]

Mr. Thomas: In September 2008, at the 62nd session of the UN General Assembly, a resolution was passed by consensus calling on all member states to "Strengthen Transparency in Industries", in which the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) was noted as a key voluntary initiative for increasing transparency within the extractive industries.

The UK co-sponsored the resolution, in collaboration with other UN member states, and played a leading role in supporting the Government of Azerbaijan to table the resolution and negotiate the text with member states.

Commitment to the EITI continues to expand globally. It now has 23 implementing countries and is supported by developed countries, international and domestic companies and civil society organisations in both the North and the South.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Governance and Transparency Fund in the development of accountability mechanisms between citizens and Governments in developing countries. [233781]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Implementation of the 38 programmes being supported through the Governance and Transparency Fund has only recently begun. We do not, as yet, have any project reports on which to base assessments. However, development of accountability mechanisms between citizens and Governments is central to the fund and is an area which future reports will focus on.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many countries are receiving money from the Governance and Transparency Fund in 2008-09. [233782]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: 38 programmes are being funded through the Governance and Transparency Fund. These programmes are supporting activities in over 100 countries worldwide.

Human Rights: Women

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has provided to UNIFEM's regional programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia in each of the last five years. [233793]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development's (DFID) contribution to UNIFEM's regional programme on Empowering Women Migrant Workers in Asia began in 2005. By calendar year the sums disbursed have been:

Calendar year	*Sums disbursed (£)*
2005	1,170,656
2006	130,000
2007	589,108
2008	321,120

DFID also provides about £3 million a year to UNIFEM centrally as core funding.

India: Children

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he has made of the number of out-of-school children there were in India in *(a)* 2006 and *(b)* 2007. [233794]

Mr. Michael Foster: On the basis of Government of India reporting and an independent study, it is estimated that there were : *(a)* 13.4 million children aged six to 14 years out of school in academic year 2005/06; and *(b)* 7.5 million children aged six to 14 years out of school in academic year 2006/07.

India: HIV Infection

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made in reducing the incidence of HIV and AIDS in India among *(a)* women, *(b)* men who have sex with men, *(c)* injecting drug users, *(d)* sex workers and *(e)* prisoners. [233814]

Mr. Michael Foster: HIV incidence data are difficult to collect on a large scale. According to India's National AIDS Commission, the HIV prevalence rate among women in India fell from 0.36 per cent. in 2002 and 0.27 per cent. in 2007, showing good progress in containing the HIV/AIDS epidemic in the general population. In the same five-year period, the Department for International Development (DFID) contributed over £69 million towards halting the AIDS epidemic in India, working both with Government and directly with civil society

HIV prevalence data for specific high-risk groups only became available India-wide in 2006. The National AIDS Commission reports prevalence among sex workers of 4.9 per cent. in 2006 and 5.1 per cent. in 2007; among injecting drug users of 6.9 per cent. in 2006 and 7.2 per cent. in 2007; and among men who have sex with men of 6.4 per cent. in 2006 and 7.4 per cent. in 2007. No disaggregated data are currently available nationwide on prisoners. DFID's support to the National AIDS Control Programme III began in 2007 and emphasises targeted interventions for high-risk groups.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department has provided to the BBC World Service for campaigns to counter HIV and AIDS in India in each of the last five years. [233815]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided the following funding to the BBC World Service Trust between 2003 and 2008 for HIV and AIDS campaigns supporting the Government of India's national AIDS control programme:

	£
Financial year	*Amount funded*
2003-04	505,167
2004-05	1,438,693
2005-06	2,928,106
2006-07	1,920,279
2007-08	223,850

India: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent to tackle HIV and AIDS in India in each of the last five years. [233726]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International's (DFID) country programme in India spent the following on tackling HIV and AIDS in the each of the last five years:

	£
2003-04	5,523,054
2004-05	11,139,692
2005-06	21,462,197
2006-07	28,670,852
2007-08	27,432,842

In addition, DFID's multilateral funding to such institutions as UNAIDS, UNICEF, UNFPA and the World Bank supports a range of HIV and AIDS prevention, treatment and care activities in India, as does the support channelled centrally to civil society organisations.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the Indian Network of Positive People living with HIV and AIDS in each of the last five years. [233727]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £217,215 to the Indian Network of Positive People living with HIV and AIDS between February 2006 and March 2007. The purpose was to enhance the contribution of people living with AIDS in national efforts to halt the HIV epidemic in India.

In addition, DFID is currently supporting the Global Network of People Living with HIV and AIDS to (i) develop its institutional capacity and involve its global and regional networks in designing and implementing AIDS programmes at country level and (ii) strengthen civil society nationally to deliver informed, evidence-based HIV and AIDS advocacy. Some of this support benefits the Indian Network of Positive People living with HIV and AIDS.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided for the delivery of water and other urban services in Kolkata, Hyderabad and Bhopal in 2008-09; and what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of that expenditure. [233788]

Mr. Michael Foster: During 2008-09 the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided funds for the improvement of urban services as follows: Kolkata, £6.76 million; Bhopal, £0.44 million; no funds have been provided in Hyderabad this year. The effectiveness of the project expenditure is formally reviewed on an annual basis by DFID staff in conjunction with Government partners.

The latest annual reviews of each of the projects have projected that they will be successful. Household surveys in West Bengal show that the percentage of the urban poor has reduced from 33 per cent. in 1998 to 18 per cent. in 2006, with the rate of decline being faster in the project municipalities. Property tax receipts, the primary source of municipal revenue, have increased by between 11 and 14 per cent. as a result of improved tax collection procedures. Policy achievements include the introduction of new state legislation mandating that 25 per cent. of municipal revenues are spent on poor people. Development plans for the further improvement of basic services have been prepared on the basis of community priorities in each of the project municipalities and are now under implementation.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's expenditure on elementary education in India in increasing access to such education. [233789]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) jointly assesses the effectiveness of its expenditure on elementary education in India on a six-monthly basis with its partners, the Government of India, the Governments of the country's 35 states and union territories, the World Bank and the European Commission. The findings of these joint reviews are in the public domain and available on the Government of India's SSA website at:

ssa@nic.in

Progress has been largely positive. Highlights include a reduction of out-of-school children aged between 6 and 14 years in India from 25 million in 2003-04 to 4.5 million in 2007-08; the construction of over 250,000 new elementary over the last six years; the distribution of 160 million free textbooks annually; and special programmes to get girls and the most disadvantaged children into school. DFID's current support to SSA has a strong focus on improving the quality of education, where substantial progress is required.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of his Department's expenditure on reproductive and child health in India. [233790]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) jointly assesses the effectiveness of its expenditure towards the Government of India's Reproductive and Child Health II Programme (2005-2011) on a six-monthly basis with its partners, the Government of India, selected state governments, the World Bank and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). The findings of these reviews are in the public domain and are available from the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare:

http://mohfw.nic.in/

Provisional data from the 2008 district level household survey show improvement in some critical indicators of maternal and child health, in particular a sharp rise since 2005 in child immunisation rates and the proportion of births taking place in health facilities, as well as a steady increase in the percentage of children breastfed within one hour of birth. However, overall India remains off track to meet the millennium development goals for maternal mortality and child mortality.

Indonesia: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the results of the £25 million joint venture between his Department and the Indonesian Government. [233799]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Multi-Stakeholder Forestry programme (MFP) in Indonesia ran from 2000 to 2007. The aim of the programme was to improve the rights of local communities to forest resources and reduce illegal logging. Independent evaluations of the project's impact on illegal logging, poverty, community forestry and conflict were conducted and published in 2006. A final project completion report published in 2007 gave the project the highest achievable rating. Further information can be obtained on the DFID website:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/casestudies/files/asia/indonesia-forestry-democracy.asp.

The project resulted in Government better realising their obligations to forest communities, including the passing of 70 local-government decrees on community-based forest management in project areas. In the 300 project sites, covering 2.25 million hectares of forest, local people now have more economic opportunities and higher-value markets for their products. In Sulawesi, MFP support for a forest certification scheme means communities now get 11 times more for their timber than previously. Research by the projects' civil-society partners brought about a presidential decree on illegal logging.

International Assistance

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made on the millennium development goal *(a)* to halve the number of people living in extreme poverty and hunger, *(b)* to ensure all children receive primary education, *(c)* on gender equality, *(d)* on infant mortality, *(e)* on maternal health, *(f)* to combat HIV and AIDS, malaria and other diseases, *(g)* to improve environmental sustainability and *(h)* to build a global partnership for development. [233722]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The official assessment of progress towards the millennium development goals (MDGs) is made by United Nations (UN) each year. The latest assessment can be found in the UN's annual report "The Millennium Development Goals Report 2008", published in September 2008. This report is available at:

http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/mdg/Resources/Static/Products/Progress2008/MDG_Report_2008_En.pdf

Jordan: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what funding his Department is providing to the Jordan Family Protection Project in 2008-09. [233791]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) provided £2 million to the Jordan Family Protection Project between 2000-05. DFID closed its programme in Jordan in 2005, in line with its aim to increasingly focus on the poorest countries, and therefore will not be funding the project in 2008-09. The British embassy in Amman is funding a training course for the Family Protection Project in 2008-09 with a budget of £6,500.

Lesotho: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what support his Department is providing to entrepreneurs in Lesotho in 2008-09. [233798]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Through the Lesotho Priority Support Programme, the Department for International Development (DFID) is supporting a variety of Government and private sector institutions to deliver services and products to entrepreneurs in Lesotho. These include:

1. A 'One Stop Shop' facility—reducing paperwork for entrepreneurs to license their businesses as well as reducing time in issuing import permits (down from four days to 1.5 days) and export permits (down from two/three days to five hours);

2. Developing and disseminating, in Lesotho and abroad, 6,500 copies of the 'Doing Business in Lesotho' guide. This provides comprehensive information for domestic and foreign entrepreneurs on establishing a business;

3. Carrying out a needs assessment of 610 small businesses in Lesotho to help develop more relevant and tailored support from Government and donors;

4. Providing support and training to the Basotho Enterprise Development Corporation (BEDCO) on their Small and Medium Enterprise White Paper. BEDCO now has a strategic plan and is improving the effectiveness of 'business incubators' it manages;

5. Providing further support to BEDCO to collate and disseminate a catalogue of business development service providers for small businesses; and

6. Developing and disseminating 5,000 copies of an HIV and Aids Guide, 16,000 pamphlets and 5,000 posters to support workplace HIV and Aids programmes.

Nepal: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to develop roads, agriculture and community forestry for poor excluded people in Nepal. [233784]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has spent just over £75 million on roads, agriculture and community forestry in Nepal since 2000. All these programmes were targeted at poor and excluded groups.

Over 1,060 kilometres of rural roads have been built by poor local people, with wages paid for by DFID. Our support to Helvetas has built 163 new footbridges bringing 371,000 people closer to markets, schools and health clinics. DFID has spent £47 million on these investments since 2002.

DFID's Agriculture Perspective Plan Support Programme has supported poor and excluded groups in some of the most remote districts to improve farm production and the marketing of farm products. The programme has improved the incomes of over 500,000 people, lifting 87,500 people out of poverty since 2002 at a cost of £147 per person.

The Livelihoods and Forestry Programme (LFP) has been credited as an international example of good practice in community forestry supporting community forest user groups that have reached 460,000 Nepalese households, or 10 per cent. of the total population. In 2007-08, LFP user groups generated £730,000 (Rs 90 million) from the sale of their own forest products to pay for improved local services and created 1.67 million person days of local employment managing community forests—equivalent to about 5,500 full-time jobs. More significantly the community forestry model developed with DFID support has spread across the country. 40 per cent. of households are involved nationally and many disadvantaged groups have been empowered by their involvement (see LFP case study) creating over six million days of employment for poor people per year.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to *(a)* health and *(b)* education programmes in Nepal in each of the last 10 years. [233785]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has provided £23,822,790 to education in the last 10 years; and £65, 157, 422 in health over the same period. The combined spend on health and education in the last 10 years is £88,980,212.

Nepal: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what reports he has received of the outcome of the 2007 talks between the Janajati Federation and the Nepal Government on increasing the political representation of excluded people in Nepal. [233783]

Mr. Michael Foster: Talks between the Government of Nepal and the Nepal Federation of Indigenous Nationalities (NEFIN) resulted in a 20-point agreement reached on 7 August 2007. The Indigenous Nationalities Joint Struggle Committee, which was backing the Janajati (indigenous communities), also signed the agreement.

The agreement required political parties to ensure proportional inclusion of all castes and Janajatis while nominating candidates for the election to the Constituent Assembly (CA). Other important provisions of the agreement include: creation of a state restructuring commission, official recognition for local languages other than Nepali, and the ratification of International Labour Organisation (ILO) convention no. 169.

The agreement plus changes in the electoral law led to a reservation of some CA seats for Janajatis. As a result, Janajatis account for 35 per cent. of the total membership (601 seats), which also corresponds to their share in the population. This is an improvement over the representation of Janajatis in the previous Parliament elected in 1999, which included 25 per cent. Janajati MPs.

The ILO convention no. 169 has been ratified in the meantime but the Government have yet to form the agreed state restructuring commission.

Nigeria

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of progress made in Nigeria in *(a)* improving the management of oil revenues, *(b)* strengthening systems of formal accountability and *(c)* increasing non-oil-related economic growth since 2002. [233780]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The information is as follows.

(a) Nigeria has made good progress in improving the management of its oil revenues since the restoration of civilian rule in 1999. In 2004 the Government introduced an oil price based fiscal rule (OPBFR) which was given legal force within the federal-level Fiscal Responsibility Act (FRA) of 2007. The FRA provides a framework for fiscal management and institutionalises reforms intended to enhance fiscal transparency, accountability and medium-term fiscal sustainability. All oil revenue above a predetermined threshold has been held in a special excess crude account (ECA). Application of the OPBFR rule has led to considerable budget surpluses and quick accumulation of foreign currency reserves, which currently amount to over US$60 billion, covering more than 30 months of imports. Debt management has also improved greatly. In 2006, Nigeria used US$18 billion of its oil savings to settle its Paris Club debt obligations, leading to a public debt to GDP ratio of 12.5 per cent. of GDP in 2007. This is lower than the 34 per cent. median for countries with the same sovereign credit risk rating of BB-. External debt is now only 16 per cent. of total stock, most of this being multilateral debt contracted on concessional terms.

Oil accounts for over 90 per cent. of total government revenues. Since 1999, approximately half of all revenues go to the federal Government and the rest to state and local governments. Under Nigeria's constitution, states have considerable autonomy. A major challenge to further improving fiscal policy in Nigeria is incentivising states to adopt sound public financial management policies, despite pressure to spend the increased revenues from higher oil prices, and building states' capacity to implement the necessary reforms.

(b) In addition to the aforementioned reforms, Nigeria has also taken significant steps to strengthen its systems of accountability. It is now a global leader in the extractive industries transparency initiative (EITI), which aims to generate greater transparency in the flow of revenues from extractive industries. The Nigerian EITI (NEITI) successfully completed a full physical, process and financial audit of the oil and gas sector for the period 1999 to 2004. The 2005 audit is almost complete. In 2007, Nigeria became the first country to enact the EITI into legalisation. Further work is needed to institutionalise NEITI, and enforce the NEITI Act. Nigeria is also taking steps to improve the transparency and efficiency of its budget process, including the development of medium term sector strategies within a medium term economic framework. Progress on institutionalising budget reforms has been slow due to resistance from political interests, poor co-ordination, and weak capacity. Public procurement legislation was recently introduced, which aims to improve the transparency and effectiveness of public expenditure. Implementation and enforcement of this legislation could be impeded by weak capacity in ministries.

(c) Non-oil growth to generate employment and raise incomes is a priority of the Nigerian Government. The non-oil sector provides the majority of livelihoods, mostly in agriculture, and is currently contributing strongly to overall growth. The IMF estimates that non-oil growth in 2007 was 9.6 per cent., compared to annual averages of 7.8 per cent. across all sectors for 2004 to 2007, and just 2 per cent. between 1980 and 2002. Agriculture, construction, telecommunications, transportation, retail and wholesale have all grown strongly. However, despite the strong response of the non-oil sector to reforms to date, major challenges remain. Nigeria is ranked 118 out of 181 countries in the World Bank Doing Business 2009 survey, and Nigeria's huge infrastructure gap must be addressed if the economy is to fully realise its growth potential. Non-oil exports

grew by 30 per cent. in 2007 but still represent just 2 per cent. of total exports and consist mainly of primary agricultural commodities. The recent strong performance of the telecommunication and financial sectors demonstrate their growth potential once regulatory frameworks are established and macroeconomic conditions are favourable.

Overseas Aid

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how the United Kingdom has met its commitments to deliver the millennium development Goals (MDGs); and if he will place in the Library a copy of the addresses he made during the special United Nations General Assembly session on the MDGs in September 2008. [230049]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The UK is fully committed to meeting the millennium development goals (MDGs) and is on track to meet the UN target of spending 0.7 per cent. of gross national income (GNI) on official development assistance (ODA) by 2015.

Important progress has been made towards the MDGs, but there is still a long way to go. At the half-way mark to 2015, the UN High Level Event (HLE) last month in New York provided an opportunity to strengthen the commitment of the international community, including the private sector and foundations, to the MDGs. The UN Secretary General (UN SG) announced commitments of $16 billion at the closing plenary of the event. Of these commitments, the UK estimates that at least $11.5 billion represents new commitments (for education, malaria, health and food security) but we are waiting for the UN to confirm these figures with member states and other stakeholders.

Further information on how the UK has met its MDG commitments is available online:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/mdg/progress-07.asp.

Going forward we must ensure the commitments made at the UN HLE are delivered. The next major international meeting will be in Doha where the international community will come together to review progress on financing for development.

I did not address the UN General Assembly on the MDGs in September. The Prime Minister did however and his speech can be found on the No. 10 website:

http://www.number10.gov.uk/.

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial support his Department has provided to *(a)* the United Nations Children's Fund, *(b)* the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and *(c)* the United Nations Development Fund for Women in 2008-09. [233801]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development's (DFID) planned core contributions to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations High Commission for Refugees (UNHCR) and the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM) in 2008-09 are detailed as follows.

DFID's planned core contributions to UNICEF, UNHCR and UNIFEM in 2008-09

Organisation	*2008-09 (£ million)*
UNICEF	16.0
UNHCR	19.0
UNIFEM	3.0

Overseas Aid: Natural Resources

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in each year since 2002. [233819]

Mr. Thomas: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided to date a total of £8.45 million over the last six years to support the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) globally.

The yearly break down of expenditure is as follows:

	£
2002	37,896
2003	129,695
2004	3,077,358
2005	1,122,370
2006	1,999,860
2007	1,502,163
2008	582,522

Overseas Aid: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has provided to the Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund. [233866]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development has disbursed £1,054,690 to the Rights, Democracy and Inclusion Fund (RDIF) against a total commitment of £1,362,335.

Overseas Aid: Water

Mr. Dai Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many water wells his Department has funded in each year since 1997; how much this programme has cost, broken down by country; and what estimate he has made of the number of lives that have been saved as a result. [234603]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: Over the last six years the Department for International Development (DFID) has provided £775 million for water supply and sanitation programmes. It is estimated that these programmes have resulted in 25 million people gaining access to these basic services. It is not possible to disaggregate data on our funding specifically for water wells, nor accurately to estimate how many lives have been saved directly.

A detailed breakdown of DFID support for the water sector over the last five years can be found in the two reports titled 'Financial Support to the Water Sector 2002-2004' and 'Financial Support to the Water Sector 2004-2006'. These are both available on the DFID website and in the Library:

http://www.dfid.gov.uk/.

Sierra Leone: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what progress has been made by his Department in helping Sierra Leone to *(a)* attract private investment by simplifying regulations, *(b)* improve its tax collection, *(c)* manage its natural resources through the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative and *(d)* tackle corruption. [233774]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development (DFID) has been supporting the Government of Sierra Leone to reduce the administrative barriers to investment. As a direct result, it is now the easiest place to start a business in West Africa according to the 2009 Doing Business survey at:

http://www.doingbusiness.org/

DFID is funding a seven-year programme (2005-12) of assistance to the National Revenue Authority (NRA). This support will modernise the NRA and implement effective strategies to broaden the tax base and account for revenues it collects.

As part of a Diamond Sector Programme (2004-07) DFID has funded and provided technical support to implement the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) in Sierra Leone, enabling more transparency and accountability by publishing and verifying transactions between Government and companies in the sector. Sierra Leone was accepted as an EITI candidate country on 22 February 2008 and has until 9 March 2010 to undertake validation to obtain full membership of the initiative.

DFID has been the principal donor to the Sierra Leone Anti-Corruption Commission, since its establishment in 2000. Until recently, progress in tackling corruption had been slow and political commitment weak. However, initiatives under the new Government such as the appointment of a capable and independent Anti-Corruption Commissioner, a revised Anti-Corruption Act and a new National Anti-Corruption Strategy gives us some confidence that we will see progress in the fight against corruption in Sierra Leone. Recognising this renewed commitment, we are looking at a new support package for the ACC with donor partners.

Sub-Saharan Africa: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department spent on maternal health projects in sub-Saharan Africa in each of the last five years. [233725]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral expenditure on health in sub-Saharan Africa in each of the last five years is shown in the following table. Much of this contributes to maternal health through strengthening health systems. DFID's directly targeted funding for maternal, neonatal and reproductive health projects is also shown. In addition, DFID makes substantial contributions to multilateral organisations that contribute to improving maternal health, including £98 million core funding to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) over the past five years.

DFID's bilateral expenditure on health in Africa, 2003-04 to 2007-08

£ million

	2003-04	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Health	132.4	171.8	200.3	222.8	269.5
Of which:					
Maternal, neonatal and reproductive health	18.1	15.6	14.2	13.0	17.5

DFID has committed to spend at least £6 billion on health systems and services between 2008 and 2015; much of this will be in Africa and will contribute to improving maternal health.

Sudan: Human Rights

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions the Africa Conflict Prevention Pool has had on the humanitarian situation in Darfur. [233779]

Mr. Ivan Lewis: The UK Government are addressing the humanitarian situation in Darfur through the Department for International Development's (DFID) bilateral programme rather than through the Conflict Prevention Pool (CPP). We monitor the humanitarian situation closely and discuss it regularly with the British embassy, the joint DFID-FCO Sudan unit and with development partners in Sudan. DFID's programme includes an annual contribution to the Common Humanitarian Fund (CHF), which allows the UN's Humanitarian Co-ordinator to target urgent humanitarian needs. In 2008 we have provided £40 million for the CHF—around 50 per cent. of the total.

Vietnam: Overseas Aid

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps he has taken to enable poor people to maximise their revenues from agricultural exports in Vietnam. [233797]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development (DFID) has committed £8.66 million to the Making Markets Work Better for the Poor project in Vietnam since 2003. The project links poor people in rural provinces to international markets to maximise their revenues from agricultural and other production. A good example is the development of sustainable smallholder bamboo production supplying IKEA with materials for flooring which is delivering additional benefits of $1 million per year to poor households in Thanh Hoa province. Pilot schemes in 30 locations have raised incomes for 20,000 households and created 500 new jobs.

DFID is also assisting Vietnam to fulfil its World Trade Organisation (WTO) commitments by providing £4 million to the Beyond WTO programme, including help to poor people to seize the opportunities created by Vietnam's integration into the global economy. Vietnam's agricultural exports increased by 20 per cent. in 2007, the year after WTO accession.

DFID also provide major funding to the rural transport sector (£40.5 million over 10 years) to improve the quality of the rural road networks to link many poor villages to national and international markets. This has helped reduce the production costs of agro-processing for export, making products more competitive in global markets.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234692]

Jonathan Shaw: Airwave handsets are currently being used by the Fraud Investigation Service which is part of the benefit fraud directorate within Jobcentre Plus.

There are no plans currently for other parts of DWP to use Airwave handsets.

Children: Maintenance

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child maintenance customers will continue to operate under the old Child Support Agency system; when he expects all customers to be transferred to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission system; and if he will make a statement. [232045]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 30 October 2008]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many child maintenance customers will continue to operate under the old Child Support Agency system; when he expects all customers to be transferred to the new Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission system; and if he will make a statement. [232045]

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission took responsibility for all Child Support Agency functions, assets and people from 1 November 2008. All existing Agency clients have the option either to agree a private maintenance arrangement or to remain within the current schemes until the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme is introduced.

The Commission expects to introduce the new gross income statutory maintenance scheme in 2011 and all Agency clients on both schemes will then be invited either to apply to the new gross income scheme or to make a private arrangement. It is currently planned that this process will take around three years.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Disability Living Allowance

Mr. Oaten: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 4 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 257W, on disability living allowance, what percentage of those rejected for both disability living allowance and attendance allowance have gone to a Ministry of Justice tribunal. [234976]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: The information is not available and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the Disability and Work Division's Employment and Support Allowance design team has undertaken an impact assessment study for the introduction of employment and support allowance (ESA), with particular regard to the effects on expenditure on current incapacity benefit and income claimants and new ESA claimants; and if he will make a statement. [227945]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 October 2008]*: I can confirm an impact assessment was conducted for the Welfare Reform Bill that introduced the employment and support allowance.

The "Welfare Reform Bill 2006—Regulatory Impact Assessment" can be found on the internet at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/welfarereform/docs/WelfareReformRIA.pdf

The introduction of employment and support allowance will not affect the level of benefit expenditure on existing incapacity benefits customers, including contributory incapacity benefit and income support on grounds of incapacity. However, it will affect the level of benefit expenditure on new claimants receiving employment and support allowance for the first time instead of incapacity benefit.

According to our latest estimates, paying these people employment and support allowance rates will cost nearly £400 million more spread over the first five years, including the knock-on to housing benefit expenditure, compared to paying the incapacity benefit rates.

The £400 million arises largely because, under employment and support allowance, claimants receive an increased rate of benefit at the 14th week, much sooner than under the incapacity benefits system, where higher rates are typically payable after a year of incapacity.

Employment Services

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what procedures his Department has to ensure that its employment advisers do not require women living in refuges to disclose their address as part of a work search. [233655]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what procedures his Department has to ensure that its employment advisers do not require women living in refuges to disclose their address as part of a work search.

This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

An address is not a prerequisite to enable matching a jobseeker to available vacancies. Therefore, at this stage a woman is not required to divulge her address to a potential employer.

Where an employment application process involves material that would ordinarily be posted to the customer, alternative arrangements can be agreed. For example, an application form can be collected from a local Jobcentre Plus office, posted to an alternative address, or sent by email to the customer.

Employment Services: Training

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what training is provided to employment advisers to enable them to *(a)* recognise and *(b)* meet the needs of people with mental health problems. [233447]

Mr. McNulty: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what training is provided to employment advisers to enable them to (a) recognise and (b) meet the needs of people with mental health problems. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus provides its employment advisers with general awareness training to enable them to have a broad understanding of various health conditions, including mental health conditions. This knowledge helps the adviser provide better help and support to the customer through recognition of how their condition might affect their job search activities. Jobcentre Plus develops its people in the skills required to manage a range of behaviours demonstrated by customers, regardless of their health condition. This approach ensures that they are better equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances and meeting the needs of our customers.

The learning programme for Jobcentre Plus advisers focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and the impact this might have on their ability to move into sustainable employment. Mental health and depression are covered within an Adviser Skills event which focuses on providing advisers with a broad understanding of conditions. Incapacity Benefit Personal Advisers, and Disability Employment Advisers, who focus on customers needing more extensive support, receive further levels of skills training appropriate to their customers.

Employment: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the difference between summer and winter employment rates was in the latest period for which figures are available in *(a)* Barry, *(b)* Blackpool, *(c)* Bognor Regis, *(d)* Bournemouth, *(e)* Bridlington, *(f)* Brighton, *(g)* Burnham on Sea, *(h)* Clacton, *(i)* Conwy, *(j)* Dawlish/Teignmouth, *(k)* Deal, *(l)* Eastbourne, *(m)* Exmouth, *(n)* Falmouth, *(o)* Folkestone/Hythe, *(p)* Great Yarmouth, *(q)* Hastings/Bexhill, *(r)* Ilfracombe, *(s)* Isle of Wight, *(t)* Lowestoft, *(u)* Minehead, *(v)* Morecambe/Heysham, *(w)* Newquay, *(x)* Penzance, *(y)* Porthcawl, *(z)* Rhyl, (aa) Scarborough, (bb) Sidmouth, (cc) Skegness, (dd) Southend on Sea, (ee) Southport, (ff) St Ives, (gg) Swanage, (hh) Thanet, (ii) Torbay, (jj) Weston super Mare, (kk) Weymouth, (ll) Whitby, (mm) Whitley Bay, (nn) Whitstable/Herne Bay and (oo) Worthing. [228599]

Mr. McNulty: The information requested is not available.

Fit for Work Service

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for a trial of the Fit for Work Service, as referred to in the Green Paper No One Written Off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility. [234845]

Mr. McNulty: We intend to begin piloting the Fit for Work service in locations across Great Britain from 2009.

We will provide further information on the Fit for Work service in the Government's response to Dame Carol Black's Review of the health of Britain's working age population, which will be published later this year.

Industrial Injuries Scheme

Ian Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people successfully claimed industrial injuries benefit due to ill health following the administration of an occupational vaccine in each of the last 25 years; which vaccines were involved in each successful claim; what classification was given to the illness of each successful claimant; and how many of the claims were classed as an *(a)* industrial injury and *(b)* industrial accident; [232512]

(2) how many people have made unsuccessful claims for industrial injuries benefits following the administration of an occupational vaccine to them in each of the last 25 years; how many of those people had their claims refused on the grounds that they were studying or training to be qualified for the relevant occupation in each of those years; and which vaccines were cited in the claims in each case. [232513]

Kitty Ussher: The information is not available.

Jobcentre Plus: Manpower

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many personal advisers worked in Jobcentre Plus offices in each month since 2002, broken down by region; and what their total salary cost was in each such month in each region. [231471]

Jonathan Shaw: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the acting chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Mel Groves. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Mel Groves:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many personal advisers worked in Jobcentre Plus offices in each month since 2002, broken down by region; and what their total salary cost was in each such month in each region. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Acting Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

We are unable to provide information prior to April 2003. I have placed information regarding the number of personal advisers, expressed as full-time equivalents (FTEs) along with the associated total salary costs, by region in each such month since April 2003 in the Library.

Members: Correspondence

Mr. Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when the Independent Case Examiner plans to reply to the letter of 9 September 2008 from the hon. Member for West Chelmsford on his constituent, Ms J. Wood of Great Leighs, Chelmsford. [235252]

Jonathan Shaw: The letter was not received by the Independent Case Examiner until 10 November 2008. A response was issued the same day.

New Deal for 50 Plus

Mr. Waterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals were enrolled in the New Deal 50 Plus programme in each month since its launch; [231828]

(2) how many individuals are enrolled in the New Deal 50 Plus programme. [231829]

Mr. McNulty: The available information on the number of individuals enrolled on the New Deal 50 Plus in each month is in the table.

New Deal 50 Plus—Starters (Individuals) since January 2004 People starting: Time Series—month of starting

	Total
January 2004	3,860
February 2004	3,100
March 2004	3,480
April 2004	2,660
May 2004	2,560
June 2004	2,540
July 2004	3,320
August 2004	2,890
September 2004	2,640
October 2004	3,670
November 2004	2,570
December 2004	2,420
January 2005	2,410
February 2005	2,600
March 2005	2,360
April 2005	2,670
May 2005	2,250
June 2005	1,950
July 2005	2,470
August 2005	1,800
September 2005	2,220
October 2005	1,840
November 2005	2,060
December 2005	1,810
January 2006	1,600
February 2006	1,700
March 2006	1,950
April 2006	1,230
May 2006	1,480
June 2006	1,670
July 2006	1,330
August 2006	1,310
September 2006	1,510
October 2006	1,260
November 2006	1,450
December 2006	1,330
January 2007	1,430
February 2007	1,460
March 2007	1,620
April 2007	1,090
May 2007	1,080
June 2007	1,150
July 2007	850
August 2007	1,070
September 2007	800
October 2007	880
November 2007	1,190
December 2007	670
January 2008	820
February 208	1,250
March 2008	780
April 2008	870
May 2008	890
Total	97,820

Notes:
1. Definitions and conventions: Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Figures may not sum to total due to rounding.
2. Information on the month of starting is available from January 2004 (the programme was introduced in April 2000). The latest data are to May 2008.
3. This information is published at
http://83.244.183.180/new_deals/nd50plus/live/tabtool.html
4. Statistics relating to current participants on New Deal 50 Plus are under review and will be released as soon as possible. The available information is in the table.

Source:
Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate.

Poverty: Children

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent assessment is of the Government's progress towards meeting their targets to reduce child poverty. [234494]

Kitty Ussher: We have lifted 600,000 children out of relative poverty since 1999, and around a further 500,000 will be lifted out of relative poverty as a result of policies already agreed and in the process of being implemented.

We will continue to do everything we can to support low-income families with children. This is why the Prime Minister announced in September that we will enshrine in legislation our commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

Social Security Benefits: Applications

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of support group employment and support allowance claims which last for *(a)* less than three months, *(b)* between three months and one year, *(c)* between one and two years, *(d)* between two and three years and *(e)* more than three years. [224028]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008. Therefore there have been no outturn data yet. However, estimates have been made, which show expected claim durations. These figures are not an assessment of the aims or effect of the introduction of the new benefit.

Details of the proportion of people remaining on benefit after particular periods provided in the following table are in line with the cautious and prudent approach to making fiscal projections, where the impact of existing and proposed policies is taken into account once there is robust evidence of their effect, but the impact of new or planned policies is not considered where the evidence is more limited.

The historical data on severely disabled incapacity benefit cases show that they leave benefit very slowly as it takes longer for them to adapt to their conditions. Virtually no one who is severely disabled leaves benefit within three months, though outflows from this group start to rise over time.

Estimated proportion of employment and support allowance support group claimants remaining on benefit after a particular period of time

	Percentage
Up to 13 weeks	99.8
Up to 6 months	98.4
Up to 12 months	92.5
Up to 24 months	80.7
Up to 30 months	78.8
30 months+	76.4

Notes:

1. Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008 and replaces incapacity benefit and income support on the grounds of sickness or disability for new claimants.
2. Estimates do not take into account new or planned policies where evidence is more limited.
3. Estimates are based on the latest available data and are subject to revision as new data become available.
4. Estimates relate to employment and support allowance support group awards for adults of working-age.
5. Estimates are extrapolated from the historic administrative data on survival of the most severely disabled on incapacity benefits.

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of main phase employment and support allowance claims which last for *(a)* less than 13 weeks, *(b)* between 13 and 28 weeks, *(c)* between 28 weeks and one year, *(d)* between one and two years, *(e)* between two and three years and *(f)* more than three years. [234027]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008. Therefore there have been no outturn data yet. However, estimates have been made, which show expected claim durations. These figures are not an assessment of the aims or effect of the introduction of the new benefit.

Details of the proportions of claimants remaining on benefit after particular periods provided in the following table are in line with the cautious and prudent approach to making fiscal projections, where the impact of existing and proposed policies is taken into account once there is robust evidence of their effect, but the impact of new or planned policies is not considered where the evidence is more limited.

Estimated proportions of employment and support allowance claimants remaining on benefit after a particular period of time

	Claimants remaining on benefit (percentage)
Up to 13 weeks	61.3
Up to 6 months	49.4
Up to 12 months	33.3
Up to 24 months	28.0
Up to 30 months	26.0
30 months +	25.2

Notes:

1. Employment and support allowance was introduced on 27 October 2008 and replaced incapacity benefit and income support on the grounds of sickness or disability for new claimants.
2. Estimates do not take into account new or planned policies where evidence is more limited.
3. Estimates are based on the latest available data and are subject to revision as new data become available.
4. Estimates relate to all employment and support allowance awards for adults of working age.
5. Estimates are extrapolated from the historic incapacity benefits data from the Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study with adjustments made to allow for the impact of Pathways to Work and employment and support allowance.

Social Security Benefits: Carers

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the cost implications of moving carers currently in receipt of income support on to a modified form of jobseeker's allowance; what other impact assessment of the change he has made; and if he will make a statement. [228496]

Jonathan Shaw *[holding answer 20 October 2008]:* We have no specific costs that can be directly attributed to moving income support carers to a modified jobseeker's allowance as they constitute a minority of the income support caseload that would be moved. As such, the work we have done to cost a move to a modified jobseeker's allowance has been on the basis of moving the entire caseload. However, there would be no change in the amount of benefit paid to carers on income support nor would there be any additional one-off implementation costs associated with this specific group. There would also be no increased requirements placed upon carers.

The impact assessment produced alongside the Green Paper provided some high-level information about the proposal to move income support cases on to jobseeker's allowance in so far as it applied to lone parents. Further details will be provided once the policy has been reviewed in the light of responses to the consultation.

Social Security Benefits: Overpayments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was overpaid in benefits through *(a)* fraud and *(b)* error to claimants who were deceased in each year since 1997 for which information is available. [226225]

Mr. McNulty: This information is not available. The fraud and error data collected are not broken down to a level required to identify this category separately.

Unemployment Benefits

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much an eligible single person aged 25 years or over received in *(a)* unemployment benefit and *(b)* jobseeker's allowance in each year since 1987, expressed as a proportion of average earnings. [233145]

Mr. McNulty: The available information is in the table.

Unemployment benefit (UB) and jobseeker's allowance (JSA) rates as percentage of average earnings, 1987 to 2008

	UB/JSA rate as percentage of average earnings
1987-88	15.8
1988-89	15.0
1989-90	14.5
1990-91	14.2
1991-92	14.5
1992-93	14.1
1993-94	14.1
1994-95	14.0
1995-96	13.8
1996-97	13.7
1997-98	13.4
1998-99	12.8
1999-2000	12.6
2000-01	12.3
2001-02	11.8
2002-03	11.4
2003-04	11.2
2004-05	11.2
2005-06	10.9
2006-07	10.7
2007-08	10.8

Notes:
1. UB/JSA rates are for single person aged 25 or over.
2. Average earnings from 1998 onwards are taken from the Annual Survey of Hours and Earnings (ASHE), and before 1998 from the New Earnings Survey (NES).
3. Average earnings are mean UK gross weekly pay for full-time adult employees.

Winter Fuel Payments

Chris Grayling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people received cold weather payments in each year since 1988 for which information is available; how many payments were made, broken down by level; and how much was spent in each such year. [226200]

Kitty Ussher: The available information is in the following table.

	Number of cold weather payments (Thousand)	*Total amount spent (£ million)*
1988-89	0.5	0.003
1989-90	n/a	0.4
1990-91	n/a	9.3
1991-92	3,827	23.0
1992-93	2,503	15.0
1993-94	2,064	12.4
1994-95	11	0.1
1995-96	7,252	61.6
1996-97	4,964	42.2
1997-98	55	0.5
1998-99	26	0.2
1999-2000	114	1.0
2000-01	3,535	30.0
2001-02	1,804	15.3
2002-03	1,675	14.2
2003-04	418	3.5
2004-05	213	1.8
2005-06	988	8.4
2006-07	402	3.4
2007-08	472	4.0

n/a = not available

Notes:
1. Figures are for payments triggered in the relevant financial year.
2. There was a single level of payment each year, except in 1990-91 when the level of payment was increased during the year. A breakdown of the number of payments for that year by level is not available.
3. Some people were made more than one payment in some years.
4. Numbers of payments made are rounded to the nearest 1,000, except for 1988-89 where the number of payments is rounded to the nearest 100. Amounts spent are rounded to the nearest £0.1 million, except for 1988-89 where the amount spent is rounded to the nearest £1,000.
5. Data are not available on the numbers of payments received (as opposed to made) or on the numbers of people who received payments. However, the vast majority of payments are now made direct into bank accounts.

Source:
Annual reports by the Secretary of State for Social Security/Work and Pensions on the Social Fund.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

English Language: Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much was spent by his Department on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in each of the last 10 years. [234324]

Mr. Simon: Since 2001, the Government fund English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Skills for Life strategy as part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) overall adult skills budget.

The Learning and Skills Council (LSC) calculates the total amounts spent on Skills for Life ESOL as follows:

	£ million
2000/01	103
2001/02	185
2002/03	235
2003/04	267
2004/05	289
2005/06	298
2006/07	289

The data collected by LSC cover all eligible ESOL learners in England, whether they are long-term residents or recently arrived in the UK.

Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council: Grants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much the Greater Manchester Learning and Skills Council has given to *(a)* the Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations, *(b)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and *(c)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium. [233230]

Mr. Simon: The Department recognises and supports the vital role that the third sector plays in empowering individuals and communities. The funding of these organisations is an operational matter for the LSC. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 7 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question that asked: how much the Greater Manchester LSC has given to a) Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations (GMCVO), b) Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support and c) Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium. Our understanding is that the latter two organisations are administered by the GMCVO which is the accountable body.

The question includes the term 'given' which may be interpreted as implying that the LSC has grant funded the organisations listed above. At present the LSC is not providing any form of grant funding to GMCVO but we do have a contract in place with this organisation for LSC funded activity.

The LSC currently has a single contract with GMCVO and an additional contract currently under negotiation. The organisation is also a partner in a successful consortium bid. The details are set out below.

The LSC has recently awarded a contract as part of the activity funded under the LSC's European Social Fund programme. The organisation has successfully completed the Pre-Qualification Questionnaire and is a on our approved supplier list. Subsequently, the organisation successfully tendered to the LSC to become the Grant Co-ordinating Body to manage the community grants programme for Greater Manchester. Details of the contract are publicly available on our website. In summary the contract for the management of the community grants programme will run from May 2007 to December 2010 and has a total value of £796,232.

The aim of the project is to establish a sub-regional grants co-ordinating structure to develop, deliver and manage a community grants programme across the Greater Manchester sub-region to support smaller community based organisations who would not normally access ESF funding to engage in the programme. The focus of activity is engaging people from the hardest to reach communities and individuals experiencing multiple disadvantages. Ninety percent of the funding available will go to small community and voluntary sector organisations.

In addition the organisation has successfully tendered to deliver ESF funded Level 4 training which was tendered for in March 2008. We are currently at the contract clarification stage. The anticipated value of the contract is less than £35,000

The LSC has recently procured activity through ESF Technical Assistance funding. The aim of the planned activity is to better engage the third sector workforce, both employed and volunteer, in the LSC's Train to Gain programme. The project will cover the whole of the North West and has a total value of £120k for the whole region. Voluntary Sector North West have successfully tendered as the lead organisation in a consortia bid. Greater Manchester Council for Voluntary Organisations is a named partner in the bid. They will act as a sub-contractor undertaking delivery of activity for the Greater Manchester element of the region wide activity which we anticipate will be approximately 40% of the total contract value.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact our regional Director for the North West, John Korzeniewski

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what discussions he has had with the Higher Education Funding Council for England on altering the number of additional students each university may accept in each year. [235315]

Mr. Lammy: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the chair of the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) on 29 October 2008 regarding additional student numbers in 2009-10. It is for HEFCE to determine the funding allocation to each individual institution.

Sector Skills Council

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills (1) what the timescale is for the consultation process on the re-licensing of Sector Skills Councils; which stakeholders will be consulted; and what form the consultation will take; [229006]

(2) what plans he has to consult professional bodies as part of the consultation process for the re-licensing of Sector Skills Councils. [229007]

Mr. Simon: The consultation process for the relicensing of Sector Skills Councils (SSCs) is part of an assessment of their performance being undertaken by the National Audit Office. SSCs are being assessed by the NAO in five groups of five between now and August 2009. Each SSC has been asked to provide a stakeholder map to the NAO which includes sector specific stakeholders such as trade associations, employer forums and professional bodies and where appropriate sector specific awarding bodies. The NAO will then as part of the evidence gathering process use the map to consult with the identified key stakeholders. The consultation is an inclusive process and any organisation which wishes to input evidence on any SSC can submit their views to the NAO. This includes professional bodies, regulatory bodies, awarding bodies, funding bodies and regional partners, as well as individual employers.

Organisations wishing to submit comments are asked to present information using the four key themes in the assessment framework. These are a well run SSC; SSC core products and services; SSC sector specific solutions; and SSC results and impacts.

The UK Commission for Employment and Skills has a website which contains details of the SSC timetable for consultation for each SSC, as well as explaining the process for consultation for employers, professional bodies and stakeholders.

Technology

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department spent on technology strategy activities in *(a)* the most recent year for which figures are available and *(b)* in each of the previous five years, broken down by main budget heading. [232395]

Mr. Lammy: The Department (and formerly DTI) has funded support for technology development and use under the Technology Strategy Board since November 2004. It also funds support for technology under the budgets for the National Measurement System and Space.

The spend on these activities by main budget heading was:

£ million

	Technology Strategy		*NMS*		*Space*	
	Programme Budget	*Capital budget*	*Programme Budget*	*Capital Budget*	*Programme Budget*	*Capital Budget*
2004-05	113	Nil	68	16	39	Nil
2005-06	140	Nil	69	2	38	Nil
2006-07	130	10	62	18	28	Nil
2007-08	213	12	67	10	50	Nil

TREASURY

Corporation Tax: Small Businesses

Justine Greening: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what estimate his Department has made of the revenue to the Exchequer from the small companies rate of corporation tax in each of the last four years; and what he expects it to be in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11; [229740]

(2) what estimate his Department has made *(a)* of the number of companies paying the small companies rate of corporation tax in each of the last four years and *(b)* the likely number in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11; [229741]

(3) what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of company liquidations among companies paying the small companies rate of corporation tax in each of the last four years and *(b)* the likely number in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11. [229742]

Mr. Timms: National Statistics showing the number of companies paying at the Small Companies' Rate and the total tax charge are available for 1998-99 to 2006-07 at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/corporate tax/11-3-corporation-tax.pdf

Corporation tax receipts are forecast on an aggregate basis and published in the Budget and pre-Budget reports. It is not possible to provide a separate forecast for the number of companies paying at the small companies rate, or the number of liquidations among those companies.

Departmental Buildings

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the value of the property held by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* associated public bodies was at the most recent date for which figures are available. [212887]

Angela Eagle: Details of the net book value of the land and buildings held at 31 March 2008 by the Treasury are shown in Note 11 to the 2007-08 Resource Account, HC 539. No land or buildings were held at 31 March 2008 by either the Debt Management Office or the Office of Government Commerce.

Economic and Monetary Union

Danny Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he next plans to publish an assessment of whether the UK has met the five economic tests to join the euro; and what preparatory work his officials are undertaking for such an assessment. [234488]

Ian Pearson *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Chancellor announced in Budget 2008 that the Government did not propose a euro assessment to be initiated at the time of this Budget. The Treasury will again review the situation at the Budget next year as required by the then Chancellor's statement in 2003.

Financial Markets

Mr. Amess: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on financial markets of US *(a)* Government policy and *(b)* banking practices on lending standards; and if he will make a statement. [229505]

Ian Pearson: It is not the practice of the Government to provide assessments of the policies of overseas Governments or institutions.

Government Assistance: Disadvantaged

John Bercow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to support families with incomes less than 60 per cent. of median income and with family members with autism who are experiencing difficulties as a result of the credit crunch and the recession. [234676]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1311W, and the answer given by my hon. Friend the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Angela Eagle) to my hon. Friend the Member for Coventry, South (Mr. Cunningham) on 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 140W, and the answer by my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer to my hon. Friend the Member for Middlesbrough, South and East Cleveland (Dr. Kumar) on 17 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 631W.

Disabled people have access to a range of benefits in recognition of their extra support needs. The employment and support allowance offers financial help and personal support to disabled people who are out of work, and disability living allowance provides a contribution towards the extra costs arising from disability. The disability premium in income-related benefits is also paid in recognition that the least well-off disabled people need additional help.

Revenue and Customs: Contracts

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with HM Revenue and Customs on its decision to invite bids from the private sector to take over the physical security arrangements at various sites in Northern Ireland. [234034]

Mr. Timms: As part of its Departmental Transformation Programme, HMRC is looking at ways it to improve the delivery and value for money of internal support and make a significant contribution to the Department's overall efficiency targets.

HMRC's manned security guarding services are currently provided through a mixed model of in-house and outsourced security guards, with over 60 per cent. of security guards already provided by external suppliers (primarily Mapeley) under contractual arrangements. In Northern Ireland, 15 HMRC sites are already manned by private security guards, with HMRC employing security guards directly at just two sites.

In August 2008 HMRC launched a fully competitive procurement exercise through the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) to explore the option of outsourcing its remaining in-house guarding services across the UK. I expect HMRC to make further recommendations and to have further discussions once the procurement process is complete.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the estimated cost to the public purse is of the stamp duty threshold extension; and what his estimate is of the number of housing transactions that will be affected by the extension. [235095]

Ian Pearson: I refer the right hon. Member to the letter from the Chancellor to the right hon. John McFall MP, Chairman of the Treasury Committee, on 2 September 2008, deposited in the Library of the House, and to the answer given on 15 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 2155-56W.to the hon. Member for Runnymede and Weybridge (Mr. Hammond).

Tax Havens

Jim Cousins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether HM Revenue and Customs has tax information-sharing agreements with *(a)* the Crown Dependencies, *(b)* Monaco, *(c)* Liechtenstein and *(d)* Andorra. [233664]

Mr. Timms: The Government signed a new Tax Information Exchange Agreement with the Government of the Isle of Man on 29 September 2008. This agreement is not yet in force. However, the United Kingdom already exchanges information for certain direct tax purposes with the Crown Dependencies under the terms of our bilateral double taxation arrangements with Jersey, Guernsey and the Isle of Man. The Crown Dependences also have agreements with the United Kingdom under the framework of Council Directive 2003/48/EC. Those agreements provide for exchange of information by the UK and a withholding tax on savings income or disclosure of information by the dependencies.

In addition, the Isle of Man exchanges information to enable a correct assessment of VAT with the United Kingdom, as well as with other EU member states, in accordance with the provisions set out in EC Regulation 1798/03 on Administrative Co-operation in the VAT field. These arrangements apply to the Isle of Man by virtue of undertakings given in the 1979 UK-Isle of Man Customs and Excise Agreement and Article 7(2) of VAT Directive 2006/112/EC, the effect of which is to bring the Isle of Man within the EC's VAT fiscal territory.

The United Kingdom does not have a tax information exchange agreement with Monaco, Liechtenstein or Andorra.

Valuation Office: Conferences

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 29 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2307-8W, on the Valuation Office: travel, if he will place in the Library copies of the presentations, handouts and speeches made by representatives of the Valuation Office Agency at *(a)* the Malaysia valuation conference, *(b)* the Canadian Valuation Symposium and *(c)* the Polish valuation conference. [232855]

Mr. Timms: A copy of these presentations, made by a Valuation Office Agency representative, has been placed in the Library.

Working Tax Credit

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what checks HM Revenue and Customs makes with child care providers to ensure that tax credit claimants are paying for and using child care services. [234380]

Mr. Timms: I refer the hon. Member to the reply I gave him on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 680W.

Written Questions: Finance

Mr. Vara: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the cost limit above which Ministers may decline to answer parliamentary questions on the ground of disproportionate cost was last revised. [235703]

Angela Eagle: The disproportionate cost threshold (DCT) was set at its present level (£700) in November 2006, *(Official Report*, 28 November 2008, column 87WS. The threshold is advisory, not obligatory. Ministers can answer written questions substantively regardless of cost if they consider it in the public interest to do so.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Leader of the House how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from her Office in each year since 1997. [234097]

Chris Bryant: There have been no further losses following the answer I gave on 3 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 14W, namely that since June 2007 one laptop has been reported stolen from the Leader of the House of Commons Office. The laptop was used to update the office website and did not contain any personal data or other sensitive information. No data have been lost.

Following a machinery of government change, information prior to 2006-07 is available only at disproportionate cost.

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Employers' Liability: Databases

Mr. David Anderson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will make it his policy to create a database to which all employers are required to submit the details of their liability insurance. [228808]

Jonathan Shaw: I have been asked to reply on behalf of the Minister of State at the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform, as matters to do with employers' liability compulsory insurance (ELCI) sit with the DWP. I understand that your inquiry is about ELCI and not public liability insurance. At present, where a potential claimant who has been injured or made ill through their work and is unable to identify the employer's insurer to claim against, they may use the employers' liability code of practice tracing service. The code of practice, which was launched on 1 November 1999, is a voluntary code operated by the insurance industry, which requires signatories to retain historical records of insurance policies for 60 years.

Tracing employers' liability insurance policies is complex and we know that the historical records of some insurers are incomplete. However, the Government are committed to improving this situation and we are working with stakeholders to improve the effectiveness of the tracing service, ensuring that we are in a position where we can be confident that every effort has been made to trace this information. For this reason, the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions has asked the Association of British Insurers (ABI) to consider positive measures within the industry to address this issue. I understand that the ABI are looking into the feasibility of a database.

In the meantime, DWP will continue to monitor the success rate of employers' liability insurance policy tracing through the Employers' Liability Code of Practice Review Body, and support improvements to the code, in order to build further upon the successes in tracing employers' liability insurance policies.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions Reduction Target

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many fuel-standardised kilowatt hours of energy savings were carried forward from phase two of the energy efficiency commitment to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target. [234710]

Joan Ruddock: Ofgem's report 'A Review of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-2008', published in August 2008, states that the energy suppliers carried over 57 fuel standardised lifetime tera-watt hours (or 57,000,000,000 fuel standardised lifetime kilowatt hours) from energy efficiency commitment 2 to the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target.

Carbon Emissions: Departmental Responsibilities

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what work is expected to be carried out by the Special Representative of the Prime Minister on Carbon Trading; and if he will make a statement. [231600]

Joan Ruddock: The Prime Minister's Special Representative on Carbon Trading, my hon. Friend the Member for Edinburgh, North and Leith (Mark Lazarowicz), was appointed on 6 October this year.

The Special Representative has been tasked with promoting the development of a global carbon market, helping to ensure that London remains at the forefront of these developments, as well as advising the Government on the potential for linking international emissions trading schemes.

He is responsible for engaging in dialogue with the European Commission, the private sector, financial institutions, other Governments and others interested in the development of the global carbon market internationally.

He is also responsible for maintaining a dialogue with UK carbon market players in the financial sector and wider economy.

Further tasks will be developed in consultation with the Secretary of State.

Carbon Emissions: Government Departments

Anne Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much *(a)* carbon dioxide and *(b)* greenhouse gasses were emitted by (i) by Government departments and agencies and (b) the UK (A) with allowance made for trading and (B) with no allowance made for trading in each of the last 15 years. [231793]

Joan Ruddock: Greenhouse gas emissions from the Government estate are monitored by the Sustainable Development Commission. The estimates do not take account of emissions trading and are restricted to carbon dioxide emissions. The reports can be found at:

http://www.sd-commission.org.uk/pages/watchdog.html.

UK greenhouse gas and carbon dioxide emissions are published as National Statistics. These can be found on the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatmos/index.htm.

The impact of emissions trading in respect of progress towards the UK targets is explained in DEFRA's January Statistical Release "UK Climate Change Sustainable Development Indicator: 2006 Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Final Figures". A more detailed breakdown of these results can be found at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/environment/statistics/globatos/download/ghg_ns_20080131.pdf.

Climate Change

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timetable is for the development and implementation of the first climate change risk assessment; and if he will make a statement. [231680]

Joan Ruddock: We are currently in the process of conducting a scoping study on the climate change risk assessment, this will be completed by February 2009. The climate change risk assessment will commence after this date and is expected to be completed by the end of 2010, including a post-project consultation period.

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timetable for the development and implementation of the cost-benefit analysis of climate change adaptation is; and if he will make a statement. [231681]

Joan Ruddock: The scoping study for the cost-benefit analysis is currently underway, and will be completed by February 2009. The main study will start in summer 2009 and will be published by 2012.

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the level of access to project credits under *(a)* the provisions of the Climate Change Bill and *(b)* EU effort-sharing arrangements. [234109]

Joan Ruddock: The information is as follows.

(a) The Bill already requires the Government to

> "have regard to the need for UK domestic action on climate change"

when considering how to meet the UK's targets and carbon budgets. As required in the Bill, we have asked the independent Committee on Climate Change to advise on the appropriate balance between action at domestic, European and international level, for each carbon budget.

In addition, the Government have now tabled an amendment to the Bill which would require a limit to be set on the purchase of credits for each budgetary period in secondary legislation, subject to the affirmative procedure, and taking into account the Committee's advice.

(b) The current proposal is that, on the basis of sharing a 20 per cent. EU reduction target, member states have an annual project credit allowance in the years 2013-20 equal to 3 per cent. of their non-emissions trading scheme emissions in 2005.

Energy Efficiency Commitment

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many fuel-standardised kilowatt hours of energy savings were carried forward from phase one to phase two of the Energy Efficiency Commitment. [234643]

Joan Ruddock: Ofgem's report 'A Review of the Energy Efficiency Commitment 2005-2008' published in August 2008 states that the energy suppliers carried over measures equivalent to 36 fuel standardised lifetime tera-watt hours (or 36,000,000,000 Fuel Standardised lifetime kilowatt hours) from EEC1 to EEC2.

Greenhouse Gas Emissions: Power Stations

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the greenhouse gas emission reductions that will be made from a 1990 baseline within the domestic *(a)* EU and *(b)* UK power sectors under (i) a 20 per cent. and (ii) a 30 per cent. EU effort-sharing arrangement. [234113]

Joan Ruddock: The EU greenhouse gas (GHG) effort sharing decision is focused on emissions not covered by the EU emissions trading scheme (ETS). It therefore does not cover emissions from the power sector which are included under the EU ETS.

The EU has emissions reduction targets, with a proposed 20 per cent. unilateral reduction, from 1990 GHG emissions, by 2020 and the commitment to deliver a 30 per cent. reduction in the context of an international deal. Phase III (2013-20) of the EU ETS limits emissions from industrial sectors and seeks to meet these targets.

Home Energy Efficiency Scheme: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much was provided in Warm Front grants in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many families in each location received a grant in that year. [234576]

Joan Ruddock: The following table illustrates the number of households assisted and cost of measures delivered through the Warm Front grant, in *(a)* Hertfordshire and *(b)* Hemel Hempstead between 1 April 2007 and 30 March 2008.

	Households assisted	*Cost of measures (£)*
Hertfordshire	2,233	3,287,930.03
Hemel Hempstead	349	300,717.76

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Adoption

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many adoptions have broken down in each of the last five years; [234667]

(2) what the average age was of children of each ethnicity at time of adoption in the last year for which records are available. [234583]

Beverley Hughes: Information on the number of adoptions which have broken down is not collected centrally. When an adoption breaks down and a child returns to be looked after, for reasons of confidentiality, the local authority concerned will give the child a new identity code, which means that we cannot link post-adoption records to pre-adoption records.

The average age for children of each ethnicity at the time of adoption, for those adopted during the year ending 31 March 2008, is shown in the following table.

Average age at adoption by ethnic origin for looked after children adopted during year ending 31 March 2008, England

Years:months

	All children	*White*	*Mixed*	*Asian*	*Mixed*	*Other*
Average age	3:11	3:11	3:8	3:1	4:0	4:7

Source:
SSDA903 return on children looked after.

Children: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of children who should have their personal details shielded on the ContactPoint database; how many children have been identified as children who will have their details shielded; and if he will make a statement. [234642]

Beverley Hughes: The decision to shield a child record will be taken on a case-by-case basis, based on the level of threat posed if information about their whereabouts becomes available.

Local authorities are currently engaging with their local partners to ensure that they understand the purpose of ContactPoint and the reasons for shielding. They will be working with those local partners to identify which of their records require shielding in accordance with the Children Act 2004 Information Database (England) Regulations 2007.

Local authorities are also currently undertaking a local shielding analysis using a structured questionnaire which asks each local authority and local partner "What is your estimate of the number of child records needing shielding?". This analysis is expected to produce a reliable estimate of the children and young people whose records should be shielded on ContactPoint, and is expected to be completed by the end of November.

Very early indications, based on estimates from a couple of local authorities, are that that the numbers of records that will require shielding will be less than 0.5 per cent. but this figure will be refined as local authorities continue make progress with partner engagement.

Children: Day Care

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what recent assessment he has made of the level of availability of wraparound child care in *(a)* England, *(b)* the West Midlands and *(c)* Birmingham. [234624]

Beverley Hughes: As required by the Childcare Act 2006, all 150 top tier local authorities in England, including Birmingham and other West Midlands authorities, have completed and published assessments of the sufficiency of childcare, including "wraparound" care in their areas.

Dorneywood

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the answer to the right hon. Member for Horsham of 19 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1187W, on Dorneywood: official hospitality, what use his Department has made of Dorneywood for official engagements in the last 12 months. [221995]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to him by my hon. Friend, the Parliamentary Secretary for the Cabinet Office (Mr. Watson) on 20 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 90-91W.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what measures will be put in place to prevent a backlog of education maintenance allowance payments in the future. [227007]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to my hon. Friend with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 227007 that asked:

"What measures will be put in place to ensure a backlog of education maintenance allowance payments does not happen again."

The Education Maintenance Allowance is operated under contract with a service delivery supplier to run the Helpline, Assessment and Payment Body. The Learning and Skills Council has put robust procedures in place to monitor performance and to minimise the potential of a backlog re occurring. This includes daily monitoring of applications received, applications processed and Notice of Entitlements issued.

I would like to reassure you that considerable effort is also being made to improve the long-term performance of the Helpline Assessment and Payment Body and to ensure that a backlog does not happen again.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department expects the current backlog of education maintenance allowance applications to be processed. [227900]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about applications made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for West Lancashire with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 227900 that asked:

"When his Department expects the current backlog of Education Maintenance Allowance applications to be processed."

The work in progress figure is reducing and currently stands at less than 40,000. The current projection is that a complete application received on 5th November should be processed by 20th November. By the end of the month we expect the "backlog" to have reduced significantly, and good applications will be processed within five days.

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) what steps have been adopted by the learning and skills council to allow colleges to give learner support fund monies to students yet to receive their education maintenance allowance grant; [229261]

(2) how many requests the Learning and Skills Council has received from colleges for funds to cover expenditure from their learner support funds to replace delayed education maintenance allowance grants; and how much has been *(a)* requested and *(b)* supplied; [229262]

(3) how much colleges have paid monies from their learner support funds to students yet to receive their education maintenance allowance grant; [229263]

(4) whether the Learning and Skills Council will reimburse college spending from the learner support funds to redress the effects of delayed education maintenance allowance payments. [229264]

Jim Knight: These are all matters for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) and other learner support schemes funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF). Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for South Holland and The Deepings with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 7 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Questions 229264 and 229261 that asked: "whether the Learning and Skills Council will reimburse college spending from the learner support funds to redress the effects of delayed education maintenance allowance payments," and "what steps have been adopted by the Learning and Skills Council to allow colleges to give Learner Support monies to student yet to receive their Education Maintenance Allowance."

The Learning and Skills Council provides schools and colleges with discretionary learner support to help learners in severe hardship. Where individuals are suffering as a result of late payment of their EMA, we would want colleges to offer whatever forms of help are necessary to learners. How these arrangements are best administered is a matter for colleges. Colleges will also need to determine how to recover any expenditure from learners once they receive their EMA back payment.

Many colleges are putting such arrangements in place using existing funding. However, where in the short term a college does need additional funding, the LSC will be willing to reprofile payments to the college in year, to front load their overall funding allocation. This will ensure that funds are available to each and every college to meet the current situation. The priority must be to ensure that any learner in need of support to alleviate hardship is able to access it. Colleges wishing to explore the possibility of reprofiling have been advised to contact their Regional Finance Director.

Mr. Gordon Prentice: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many students have not yet received education maintenance allowance payments which are due to them. [227518]

Jim Knight: This is a matter for the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) who operate the education maintenance allowance (EMA) for the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and hold information about payments made under the scheme. Mark Haysom, the LSC's chief executive, has written to the hon. Member for Pendle with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Letter from Mark Haysom, dated 11 November 2008:

I am writing in response to your Parliamentary Question 227518 that asked: "How many students have not received education maintenance allowance payments which are due."

As of 5th November 446,993 Notice of Entitlements (NoE) had been issued. In order to receive EMA payments the applicant must enrol by taking his/her NoE to a valid learning provider and attend his/her course. A student can only receive a payment where the learning provider verifies he/she has met the criteria to receive one.

As of the 5th November the number of students enrolled was 337,831 and 322,585 of these students had received at least one payment.

Free School Meals: Hemel Hempstead

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in Hemel Hempstead *(a)* were eligible for free school meals, *(b)* had a statement of special education needs and *(c)* were on School Action Plus in the latest year for which figures are available. [234577]

Jim Knight: The requested information is shown in the tables.

Maintained primary schools, state-funded secondary schools and all special schools: school meal arrangements[1], position in January 2008, England, East of England, Hertfordshire and Hemel Hempstead

	England[2]			Hertfordshire			Hemel Hempstead		
	Number on roll	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Number on roll[2]	Number of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals	Percentage of pupils known to be eligible for free school meals
Maintained Primary Schools[4]	4,090,400	638,310	15.6	91,823	7,207	7.8	8,259	879	10.6
State-funded Secondary Schools[5]	3,294,580	433,140	13.1	80,210	4,874	6.1	7,116	643	9.0
All Special Schools[3]	90,690	28,680	31.6	2,163	418	19.3	220	46	20.9

[1] Includes all pupils with dual (main) registration and boarding pupils.
[2] National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.
[3] Excludes general hospital schools.
[4] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[5] Includes middle schools as deemed, city technology colleges and academies.
Source:
School Census

Maintained primary schools, state-funded secondary schools and all special schools: special educational needs[1], position in January 2008, England, East of England, Hertfordshire and Hemel Hempstead

England[2]

	Pupils on roll[1]	*Pupils with statements*	*Incidence (percentage)*[3]	*Pupils on roll*[1]	*SEN provision, school action plus*[5]	*Incidence (percentage)*[4]
Maintained Primary Schools[6]	4,087,790	59,130	1.4	4,087,790	253,590	6.2
State-funded Secondary Schools[7]	3,289,000	67,270	2.0	3,289,000	186,860	5.7
All Special Schools	89,480	86,950	97.2	89,310	1,730	1.9

Hertfordshire

	Pupils on roll[1]	*Pupils with statements*	*Incidence (percentage)*[3]	*Pupils on roll*[1]	*SEN provision, school action plus*[5]	*Incidence (percentage)*[4]
Maintained Primary Schools[6]	91,812	1,013	1.1	91,812	4,922	5.4
State-funded Secondary Schools[7]	80,202	927	1.2	80,202	3,691	4.6
All Special Schools	2,160	2,149	99.5	2,160	5	0.2

Hemel Hempstead

	Pupils on roll[1]	*Pupils with statements*	*Incidence (percentage)*[3]	*Pupils on roll*[1]	*SEN provision, school action plus*[5]	*Incidence (percentage)*[4]
Maintained Primary Schools[6]	8,256	94	1.1	8,256	495	6.0
State-funded Secondary Schools[7]	7,116	98	1.4	7,116	334	4.7
All Special Schools	219	219	100.0	219	0	0.0

[1] Excluding dually registered pupils.
[2] National totals have been rounded to the nearest 10. There may be discrepancies between totals and the sum of constituent parts.
[3] Includes general hospital schools for pupils with statements of special education needs.
[4] Incidence of pupils—the number of pupils with SEN without statements expressed as a proportion of pupils on roll.
[5] Excludes general hospital schools. Data for pupils with SEN without statements are not collected from these schools.
[6] Includes middle schools as deemed.
[7] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

Source:
School Census.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families pursuant to the Answer of 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 577W, on general certificate of secondary education, what the breakdown of the estimated £4,000 cost is. [234386]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: As on 4 November, I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1305-06W.

Health Education: Sex

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what research he has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated to support decision-making on changes to sex and relationship curricula in schools; and whether such research includes analysis relating to the age at which it is appropriate to teach specific sex and relationship topics. [233626]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: Details of the evidence considered by the steering group are referenced in its report. As the report acknowledges, there is limited evidence on the effectiveness of individual sex and relationships education (SRE programmes). The best evidence comes from evidence reviews, such as Douglas Kirby's 'Emerging Answers: Research findings on programmes to reduce teenage pregnancies and STIs' (2007), which identified the key characteristics of effective SRE programmes. None of the evidence reviews suggest that provision of SRE led to increased levels of sexual activity.

Learning and Skills Council: Reorganisation

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families which of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) centrally-funded functions will be undertaken by *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* other institutions when the LSC is dissolved. [233512]

Mr. Simon: I have been asked to reply.

The White Paper "Raising Expectations: enabling the system to deliver", set out proposals to replace the Learning and Skills Council with two new systems. Responsibility for 16-19 funding will transfer to local authorities, supported by a new Young People's Learning Agency. For adults we propose to build on the demand led approach, including through the creation of a new Skills Funding Agency and strengthened advice and support services for adults and employers.

In response to the consultation on the White Paper we are developing the business models for the delivery of 14-19 and adult skills. This work is determining the functions which will be carried out by local authorities and other organisations, and will enable both Departments to work with partners to develop the appropriate transition plans.

The LSC will continue to be responsible for securing the effective delivery of post-16 learning until the new arrangements are in place.

Learning and Skills Improvement Service

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department is providing to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service in 2008-09. [234382]

Jim Knight: In 2008-09 this Department is providing £45.42 million in specific grants to the Learning and Skills Improvement Service.

Schools: Admissions

Mr. Willis: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families if he will instigate an investigation into the compliance of North Yorkshire county council's policy on admissions to Harrogate schools with the School Admissions Code. [235155]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State wrote to the Schools Adjudicator in March 2008 requesting that he report on compliance for admissions in September 2009. The Schools Adjudicator examined a large sample of schools across all 150 local authorities as well as a further 300 foundation and voluntary-aided schools. He identified breaches of the code in more than half of the foundation and voluntary-aided schools, half of which were clear breaches. The Schools Adjudicator has since worked with the schools and has confirmed that the necessary action has been taken to ensure compliance with the code for the 2009 admissions round.

Schools: Finance

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much and what proportion of the school development grant has been spent on special educational needs in each year since 2004; and if he will make a statement; [234747]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the school development grant in improving standards in schools; and if he will make a statement; [234748]

(3) how many and what proportion of schools are in receipt of funding from the school development grant in 2008-09; and if he will make a statement; [234749]

(4) what conditions are placed on the use of school development grant funding; and if he will make a statement. [234750]

Jim Knight: Local authority Section 52 Budget Statements indicate that, of the 21,704 maintained schools open for all of financial year 2008-09, 21,702 (99.99 per cent.) receive school development grant (SDG). All 131 academies receive equivalent funding to SDG. Schools are free to spend SDG on any purpose to support improvements in teaching and learning in schools, leading to higher standards of attainment for every learner. This can include expenditure on improving teaching and learning for pupils with special educational needs. We do not collect centrally details of how schools spend their SDG, as the Government aim to keep reporting requirements on schools to a minimum. Standards in schools are not assessed against particular funding streams, so no particular assessment has been made of the effectiveness of school development grant. Standards in schools are assessed through Ofsted inspections and information on pupil attainment.

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what conditions are placed on the use of school standards grant funding; and if he will make a statement. [234751]

Jim Knight: School standards grant may be spent by a school for the purposes of the school; for the educational benefit of pupils registered at that school, or for the benefit of pupils registered at other maintained schools; and on community facilities in support of extended services, provided under Section 27 of the Education Act 2002.

Schools: Inspections

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what assessment he has made of *(a)* the effectiveness of school inspection arrangements in England and Wales and *(b)* the potential effect of such arrangements on headteacher recruitment. [234666]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: The Department regularly discusses the effectiveness of school inspection arrangements with Ofsted. New school inspection arrangements are planned from autumn 2009 which include increased proportionality and greater involvement of head teachers and senior leaders.

Ofsted invites all schools to complete a post inspection survey. 94 per cent. of head teachers who responded during 2007-08 were satisfied with the way their inspection was carried out and 82 per cent. believed the benefits of inspection outweigh the negatives. In 2007, the National Foundation for Education Research published Impact of Section 5 inspections—Maintained Schools in England. The study, which involved over 1,500 schools, showed that most schools strongly valued and supported the inspection process. The head teacher vacancy rate remains low and stable.

Matters concerning inspection arrangements in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government and Estyn.

Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal

Tim Loughton: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many representations his Department has received on changes to the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal in the last six months. [234026]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) became part of the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the new First-tier Tribunal on November 3. The Department's correspondence handling system shows that 103 letters have been answered by Ministers since May in the lead-up to this change and six have been answered by officials. No delegations have so far come to the Department about this issue. The Ministry of Justice, of which the Tribunals Service is an Executive agency, have also received representations.

Special Educational Needs: Hearing Impaired

Tom Levitt: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what progress has been made in narrowing the gap in educational attainment between deaf children and their hearing peers; and what steps he plans to take to further narrow the gap. [234628]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: We have been looking at the data on attainment gaps between hearing impaired children and their peers with the National Deaf Children's Society, in the context of our public service agreement target to narrow attainment gaps between disadvantaged pupils and their peers. Our national strategies advisers are looking with local authorities at the proportions of children who are achieving less than levels expected for their age at Key Stages 2 and 4, and at the actions being taken to reduce those proportions over time. We have commissioned research from the National Children's Bureau and the Thomas Coram Research Centre to establish why there are such wide variations between authorities on the identification and classification of children with all types of SEN but using deaf/hearing children and autism spectrum disorders as exemplars.

To help narrow outcome gaps between children with SEN and disabilities (including children whose hearing is impaired) and their peers, we committed £18 million in the Children's Plan to: improving work force knowledge, skills and understanding of SEN and disability through better initial teacher training and continuing professional development; developing better data for schools on how well children are progressing, and guidance for schools on what constitutes good progress; and continuing to strengthen the position of SEN co-ordinators in schools. The Training and Development Agency is currently consulting on proposals for nationally accredited training courses for new SEN co-ordinators.

We have also committing to funding, from September 2009, additional places on courses leading to approved mandatory qualifications (MQ) for teaching children and young people with sensory impairments. The TDA has been working with interested parties to establish arrangements for making best use of the funding we are making available.

In addition, we have committed £800,000 for a pilot project to raise awareness of British Sign Language and upskill the current specialist work force.

Specialist Schools

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his most recent estimate is of the number of maintained secondary schools which are entitled to but have not yet become specialist schools; and what his most recent estimate is of the annual cost of increasing the funding of these schools to the average level of schools granted specialist status. [233605]

Jim Knight: There are currently 234 maintained secondary schools which are not specialist and which are eligible to apply to join the specialist schools programme. Should they all join the programme, the extra revenue cost would be around £21.1 million.

Teachers: Labour Turnover

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what estimate he has made of the number of teachers who left their employment with between two and five years experience in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date. [234834]

Jim Knight: The information requested is only partially available and is currently being collated. I will write to the hon. Member with the information and place a copy of my reply in the Library.

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of teachers who received golden hellos in each year since their introduction have since left the profession. [235113]

Jim Knight: The requested information could be produced only at a disproportionate cost.

Teachers: Pensions

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many individuals belong to the *(a)* old and *(b)* new teachers' pension scheme. [232717]

Jim Knight: All new entrants to the Teachers' Pension Scheme since 1 January 2007 accrue service with a normal pension age of 65. Based on annual service returns up to 31 March 2008, there are approximately 29,000 such active members and approximately 620,000 members accruing service with a normal pension age of 60.

Mr. Philip Hammond: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of active members in the teachers' pension scheme joined on or after 1 January 2007; and what projections he has made of changes to this figure over time. [233130]

Jim Knight: Active members of the teachers' pension scheme joining on or after 1 January 2007 accrue service with a normal pension age of 65. Based on data collected as at 31 March 2008, there were approximately 29,000 (4.5 per cent.) such active members. No projections have been made of the changes over time to the proportion of active members who joined on or after 1 January 2007. Projections of how the proportion of members who join after April 2006 would increase over time were made in the context of the Public Services Forum agreement in October 2005. I refer the hon. Member to the answer the then Chief Secretary to the Treasury gave to the hon. Member for Havant (Mr. Willetts) on 8 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 330W, which indicated the staff turnover assumed across the pension schemes for teachers, the NHS and civil servants.

Teachers: Training

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how much has been spent on *(a)* primary and *(b)* secondary (i) Bachelor of Education, (ii) other undergraduate, (iii) postgraduate certificate of education, (iv) graduate teacher programme and (v) other postgraduate teacher training in each of the last five years; [233511]

(2) how much funding has been provided to initial teacher training providers for *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate primary teacher training in (i) full-time and (ii) flexible or part-time (A) higher education courses for standard training and (B) non-higher education courses in each of the last five years. [233513]

Jim Knight: The figures contained in the following table show the amounts the Training and Development Agency for Schools has paid to teacher training providers by type and level of initial teacher training for academic years 2004-05 to 2008-09. The breakdown of funding between Bachelor of Education and other undergraduate courses is not available.

£

	2008-09	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*	*2004-05*
Provider-based (HEI and SCITT) initial teacher training full-time					
Primary					
Undergraduate	92,160,960	90,824,351	88,889,937	82,222,334	78,013,849
Postgraduate	45,138,610	43,418,306	42,210,037	41,170,564	40,617,229
Secondary					
Undergraduate	19,020,000	19,089,089	18,744,620	17,604,296	17,304,732
Postgraduate	87,025,580	84,351,053	82,435,486	80,582,583	76,765,431
Provider-based (HEI and SCITT) initial teacher training flexible/part-time					
Primary					
Undergraduate	515,250	442,196	469,745	464,814	425,733
Postgraduate	10,088,970	7,885,909	8,670,036	8,470,079	8,276,647
Secondary					
Undergraduate	73,975	48,662	41,305	40,774	22,014
Postgraduate	6,764,640	6,891,887	7,433,962	8,542,020	9,245,334
Employment-based initial teacher training					
Graduate Teacher Programme					
Primary Graduate Teacher Programme (postgraduate)	8,301,980	7,124,540	7,514,310	n/a	n/a
Secondary Graduate Teacher Programme (postgraduate)	15,711,330	15,190,230	14,471,290	n/a	n/a
Total Graduate Teacher Programme (postgraduate)	24,013,310	22,314,770	21,985,600	23,792,690	24,051,340
Other employment based Programmes					
Teach First (postgraduate)	4,530,000	4,250,000	1,790,485	1,500,000	n/a
Overseas Trained Teacher Programme (postgraduate)	1,701,200	1,450,750	2,205,660	2,343,230	n/a
Registered Teacher Programme (undergraduate)	1,875,280	1,992,900	1,927,200	2,030,000	n/a

n/a = not available

Notes:

1. The figures in the table represent payments made to teacher training providers and do not include payments to trainees.
2. For provider-based (HEI and SCITT) initial teacher training the figures include mainstream funding but not training bursaries.
3. For employment-based initial teacher training the figures include training and assessment grants but not salary grants.
4. In 2004-05 funding for the Registered Teacher Programme and the Overseas Trained Teacher Programme operated on a claim-based approach and equivalent figures to those given from 2005-06 are not available.

Source:

Training and Development Agency for Schools

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many initial teacher training providers over-recruited for *(a)* mathematics, *(b)* science, *(c)* other secondary priority subjects, *(d)* non-priority secondary subjects and *(e)* primary teacher training places in each of the last five years; and what the level of over-recruitment was in each case. [233515]

Jim Knight: The requested information is given in the following table.

These figures exclude employment based routes initial teacher training (EBITT) courses. Prior to 2008-09 the Department did not set targets for EBITT, although recruitment data for EBITT courses was still taken into account in projecting the future required numbers of recruits and successful completers on each type of programme and by subject to assist in determining the targets required for mainstream ITT targets.

Mainstream initial teacher training (ITT): Places and recruitment by ITT specialism 2003-04 to 2007-08: England

	All Mainstream ITT Providers		*Mainstream providers where recruitment exceeds allocation by one or more place*			
					Total over-recruitment	
	Total number of mainstream providers offering the course	*Mainstream providers where recruitment exceeds allocation by one or more place*	*Number of allocated places*	*Number recruited to TT courses*	*Number of places exceeding allocation*	*Average number of places in each provider exceeding allocation*
(a) Mathematics						
2003-04	74	15	410	460	50	*
2004-05	78	9	260	290	20	*
2005-06	82	11	290	320	30	*
2006-07	82	12	330	360	30	*
2007-08	84	6	230	280	50	10
(b) Science						
2003-04	77	15	750	820	70	*
2004-05	80	13	530	580	50	*
2005-06	83	12	460	490	40	*
2006-07	84	18	770	830	60	*
2007-08	84	15	760	830	80	10
(c) Other secondary priority subjects						
2003-04	88	13	2,650	2,790	150	10
2004-05	91	9	1,810	1,880	60	10
2005-06	93	5	640	690	50	10
2006-07	97	7	1,550	1,600	50	10
2007-08	97	9	1,030	1,080	60	10
(d) Non-priority secondary subjects						
2003-04	85	19	2,020	2,130	100	10
2004-05	88	25	2,330	2,490	160	10
2005-06	91	31	2,730	2,910	180	10
2006-07	83	38	2,330	2,540	210	10
2007-08	83	44	2,270	2,520	250	10
(e) Primary						
2003-04	85	48	11,350	11,840	490	10
2004-05	90	34	9,250	9,670	410	10
2005-06	88	46	11,390	11,950	560	10
2006-07	89	38	9,410	9,750	340	10
2007-08	88	43	9,570	9,970	400	10

* less than 5.

Notes:

1. Mainstream includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and OU, but excludes employment based routes.
2. Other secondary priority subjects includes: English; Maths; Science; ICT; Design and Technology; Technology; Modern Languages; Music (from September 2006); Religious Education (from September 2006) and Business Studies. Note that Business Studies is not a priority subject but is included here because the departmental target for Technology includes Design and Technology, ICT and Business Studies and cannot be split into the component parts.
3. Non-priority secondary subjects includes: Geography, History; Art; Design; physical Education; applied Science; Applied ICT; Manufacturing; Engineering; health and Social Care; Applied Business; Leisure and Tourism; Vocational—Recreation, Sport and Leisure Studies; Applied Art and Design; Music (up to September 2006) and Religious Education (up to September 2006). Excludes Business Studies—see note 2.
4. Allocation and recruitment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Targets set by the Department are at sector (not provider) level. Providers recruit to an allocation based on a bidding process. Providers are encouraged to set aspirational and challenging targets. The sum of the allocation targets may not be the same as sector level departmental targets.

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what percentage of newly-qualified teachers acquired qualified teacher status through training on the graduate teacher programme in each year since 2005. [234381]

Jim Knight: The following table shows the number and percentage of trainees who successfully completed the graduate teacher programme in each year from 2004-05 to 2006-07, the most recent year for which data are available.

Teachers gaining qualified teacher status: Qualification via the graduate teacher programme 2004-05 to 2006-07, England

		Of which: trainees successfully completing the Graduate Teacher Programme	
	Number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status	*Number*	*Percentage*
2004-05	33,750	5,090	15.1
2005-06	33,100	4,600	13.9
2006-07	34,090	5,140	15.1

Notes:
1. Percentages are based on the total number of teachers gaining qualified teacher status in that year. This includes universities and other higher education institutions, SCITT and Open University as well as employment based routes and cases where QTS is granted on assessment-based training.
2. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.
Source:
TDA Performance Profiles

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many and what proportion of students following a primary teaching postgraduate mainstream course receive a £4,000 bursary; and if he will make a statement. [234753]

Jim Knight: Training bursaries are payable to eligible trainees on mainstream postgraduate courses of initial teacher training. In 2007-08 there were 8,640 first year postgraduates on mainstream primary courses eligible for the primary bursary.

In principle, almost all trainees are eligible for a training bursary. To be eligible for a training bursary, a trainee must be a home or EU trainee on a TDA funded course and be eligible for student support. The full eligibility criteria for a bursary are set out in the Initial Teacher Training (ITT) Funding manual, available at:

www.tda.gov.uk/ittfunding

Teachers: Vacancies

Matthew Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many full-time teacher vacancies there are in Cornwall. [235190]

Jim Knight: Full-time teacher vacancy numbers in local authority maintained schools by local authority area are given in the following statistical release:

School Workforce in England (including Local Authority level figures), January 2008 (Revised)

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000813/SFR262008_Tables_LA20081021.xls

(table 21).

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 13 November 2008

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Tap Water: Committee Rooms

9. **Norman Baker:** To ask the hon. Member for North Devon, representing the House of Commons Commission if the Commission will ensure that tap water is available to hon. Members and others in committee rooms. [235265]

Nick Harvey: Following a decision taken at its meeting on 20 October the Commission has asked the Administration Committee for its reasoned advice on the arrangements for the provision of water in committee rooms. The advice of the Committee is expected in the early new year.

OLYMPICS

Olympic Games 2012: Health

Mike Penning: To ask the Minister for the Olympics what measures in the bid presented to the International Olympic Committee for the London 2012 Games were related to a legacy of health improvement for *(a)* children and *(b)* adults following the Games. [233429]

Tessa Jowell: We included, as part of London's bid to host the 2012 games, a commitment to use the games to set new standards for improving health.

We have set ambitious targets for getting 2 million more people active and increasing the number of hours of sport carried out by children and young people by 2012. Our legacy aspirations were set out in detail in the 2012 Legacy Action Plan which we published in June 2008:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/reference_library/publications/5161.aspx

Copies of the 2012 Legacy Action Plan were deposited in the House Libraries in June 2008.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Government Bills: Carry-over

8. **David Taylor:** To ask the Leader of the House what recent representations she has received on the number of Government Bills introduced in the current parliamentary Session that will be carried over into the next Session; and if she will make a statement. [235264]

Chris Bryant: I have received no formal representations on this particular subject but I have frequent discussions with colleagues in all parts of the House about various aspects of parliamentary procedure.

Two Bills introduced during the current Session are being carried over into the next Session. These are the Political Parties and Elections Bill and the Banking Bill.

Parliamentary Questions

Mr. Amess: To ask the Leader of the House if she will hold discussions with Ministerial colleagues on their practices in answering written parliamentary questions. [235261]

Chris Bryant: Successive Leaders of the House and Deputy Leaders have made it a priority to oversee the effective operation of the questions process and to ensure that Ministers and Departments are fully aware of their obligations to the House.

That is why I have this week written to members of Cabinet to emphasise the importance of giving substantive answers to written parliamentary questions before the House prorogues.

In addition, I am happy to receive representations from Members on the issue of answering written parliamentary questions.

Equality Bill

Mr. Harper: To ask the Leader of the House what discussions she has had, with reference to her responsibility for the Government's legislative programme, on which Minister will have lead responsibility in the House for the Equality Bill; and if she will make a statement. [235266]

Ms Harman: I have overall responsibility for the Equality Bill. I have asked my hon. and learned Friend the Solicitor-General to take charge of the Bill as it goes through the House, working with me and my hon. Friend the Deputy Minister for Women and Equality.

The Equality agenda is at the heart of this Government, who are committed to fairness. And that commitment needs a strong ministerial team to lead forward this agenda, including the parliamentary passage of the Equality Bill.

TRANSPORT

Air Traffic Control

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether the conclusions of the National Air Traffic Service consultation on the Terminal Control North proposal are expected to lead to a further consultation; [235516]

(2) when he expects National Air Traffic Service to publish a timetable for next steps on the Terminal Control North proposal; [235517]

(3) whether the responses received during the National Air Traffic Service consultation on the Terminal Control North proposal are expected to lead to any proposed options that are different from those contained in the consultation. [235518]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The NATS consultation on the Terminal Control North airspace change proposal closed in June 2008. NATS are continuing to analyse responses to their consultation but published an initial feedback report in July and a progress report in October, both of which are available on the NATS website at

www.nats.co.uk.

NATS have not set a timetable for next steps on the proposal, given that feedback from the consultation is still under way. They are clear that they will take as long as is necessary to give full consideration to the consultation feedback. If their analysis leads to proposed options that are significantly different from those contained in the consultation, NATS will undertake further consultation in accordance with the Airspace Change Process governed by the Civil Aviation Authority.

It would be premature for the Secretary of State to comment on the proposal while it remains subject to the rigours of the independent Airspace Change Process.

Aviation: Compensation

Robert Key: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to publish his review of protection of air passengers in the event of airline insolvency; and if he will make a statement. [234036]

Jim Fitzpatrick: The Government are keen to learn the lessons of the failure of XL Leisure Group. We are working on a range of issues with the Civil Aviation Authority and travel industry stakeholders, with a view to improving the experience of passengers in any future airline or tour operator failures. Our top priority is to look at measures which will help people booking holidays over the coming months. This work has several strands. The issues currently being considered include:

The feasibility of using an insolvent airline's aircraft and crew to return passengers home, including looking at the role of the administrator;

All aspects of repatriation including information flow to passengers abroad about their rights and available travel options, given the different types of protection which passengers will have;

How greater information can be provided to passengers to increase awareness of their options for protection against airline or tour operator insolvency when making a booking.

I expect the initial outputs around the end of the year, and will keep the House informed as appropriate.

Aviation: Radar

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment his Department has made of capacity in the certification process for the fitting of Mode S Transponders; [234970]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the availability of Mode S Transponders on the market. [234972]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Proposals for an incremental expansion in the use of Secondary Surveillance Radar Mode Select (Mode S) transponders in UK airspace are a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who has consulted twice on the subject with the aviation community. The CAA received in excess of 1,900 replies to its latest phase of the consultation and is currently preparing a Response to Consultees document. Until the CAA has concluded this part of the consultation process, it would be premature for the Department to speculate on whether, in what form and to what timetable these proposals might be moved forward.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231430]

Mr. Hoon: The Department for Transport has recorded 27 personal data related incidents in 2007-08 in its resource accounts published in July 2008.

The equipment lost in relation to these incidents recorded was five laptop computers, five Blackberrys, one USB memory device, and one removable hard disk drive.

Gliding

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) how many meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with glider clubs and members of gliding clubs to discuss the Civil Aviation Authority's proposals on Mode S Transponders; and (i) where and (ii) when each such meeting took place; [234953]

(2) what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Department for Culture, Media and Sport and *(b)* Sport England on the effects of compulsory fitting of Mode S Transponders on the sport of gliding; [234954]

(3) if he will list the respondents to the Civil Aviation Authority's consultation on Mode S Transponders; [234997]

(4) what estimate he has made of the number of gliders which would be deemed no longer airworthy under each of the four options for phased implementation of Mode Select Transponder indicated in the recent Civil Aviation Authority consultation; [234998]

(5) when he expects to publish an Order relating to Mode S Transponders. [234999]

Jim Fitzpatrick: Proposals for an incremental expansion in the use of Secondary Surveillance Radar Mode Select (Mode S) transponders in UK airspace are a matter for the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) who has consulted twice on the subject with the aviation community. The CAA received in excess of 1900 replies to its latest phase of the consultation and is currently preparing a response to consultees document. Until the CAA has concluded this part of the consultation process, it would be premature for the Department to speculate on whether, in what form and to what timetable these proposals might be moved forward.

Longdendale Bypass

Mr. Goodwill: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when the Longdendale bypass public inquiry commenced; for how many days the inquiry has sat; and what the estimated cost is of the Longdendale bypass public inquiry process. [235593]

Paul Clark: The A57/A628 Mottram-Tintwistle bypass is also known locally as the Longdendale bypass. The public inquiry commenced 26 June 2007 and sat for 15 days. These dates are listed as follows:

	Date
Day 1	26 June 2007
Day 2	3 July 2007
Day 3	4 July 2007
Day 4	5 July 2007

	Date
Day 5	6 July 2007
Day 6	10 July 2007
Day 7	11 July 2007
Day 8	12 July 2007
Day 9	4 September 2007
Day 10	5 September 2007
Day 11	6 September 2007
Day 12	11 September 2007
Day 13	19 September 2007
Day 14	6 November 2007
Day 15	18 December 2007

The specific costs for the public inquiry itself are not recorded separately, however since award of contract in August 2004, the scheme has incurred costs of £16,000,000. This includes design costs for the scheme, publication of draft orders, preparation and publication of the environmental statement, traffic modelling, legal costs, Highways Agency staff costs and the public inquiry costs.

M40: Noise

John Howell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding has been allocated by his Department and the Highways Agency for noise barrier improvements on the M40 at Milton Common. [235368]

Paul Clark: The Highways Agency is continuing to deal with noise mitigation measures on the trunk road and motorway network through a £5 million annual ring-fenced budget. The M40 at Milton Common is not in the current programme and therefore it cannot currently benefit from this funding opportunity. No other funding has been allocated for noise barrier improvements on the M40 at Milton Common.

Parking: Fines

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what requirements exist for private parking companies to advertise their enforcement policy in locations in which they operate; [222577]

(2) what restrictions limit the maximum fine that can be imposed by private parking enforcement companies. [222578]

Paul Clark: The conditions upon which a landowner makes his or her land available for use by the public are generally matters for the landowner, or his or her agent. We are not aware of any specific restrictions or requirements imposed by legislation. The British Parking Association's voluntary code of practice for parking managers covers advertising and enforcement issues.

Taxis: Disabled People

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans his Department has to consult on the compliance with disability discrimination legislation of hackney carriages outside London. [236099]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport will be publishing a consultation document shortly, which explores this issue in depth.

Transport Obesity

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment has been made of the merits of issuing national guidelines for the way transport staff deal with bariatric people. [235631]

Paul Clark: There are no specific guidelines relating to bariatric people using transport systems, but we will keep the situation under review. The Public Service Vehicle (Conduct of Drivers, Inspectors, Conductors and Passengers) Regulations 2002, describe the duties of transport operators and passengers in relation to access to buses and coaches, but does not mention this specifically.

Transport: Voluntary Organisations

Mr. Davey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what financial support his Department makes available for local community transport; and if he will make a statement. [235663]

Paul Clark: The Department for Transport does not specifically fund local community transport.

However, provided they are sufficiently accessible to the public, operators of community bus services under section 22 of the Transport Act 1985 are eligible for the Bus Service Operator's Grant (BSOG). So far £4.3 million of BSOG funding has been paid to community transport operators in 2008.

In addition, in recognition of the importance of community transport, the Department provides funding to the Community Transport Association (CTA). In this financial year, we have committed a total of £311,796.

SOLICITOR-GENERAL

Human Trafficking

Mr. Steen: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, on human trafficking, to which trafficking statistics her answer refers; and if she will place in the Library a copy of the statistics. [235568]

The Solicitor-General: The statistics to which my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, refers are extracted from the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Compass Case Management System records which show that during the period, October 2007 to September 2008, 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation and five prosecutions for other trafficking related offences. Records held by the CPS are offence based and cover all trafficking cases throughout this period, including case investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

While the Compass Case Management System shows the nature of the offence at the outset of proceedings in magistrates' courts, it does not provide information on any subsequent modification to charges, nor does it provide any information on the outcome of proceedings.

I will place in the Library a copy of those statistics, which were correct as of 6 November 2008.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mr. Steen: To ask the Solicitor-General how many of the 125 prosecutions under Operation Pentameter II have resulted in convictions; and what sentences were issued. [235542]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) records show that 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation between October 2007 and September 2008. The CPS's records are offence based only and cover all trafficking cases throughout this period, including cases investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

While the Compass Case Management System shows the nature of the offence at the outset of proceedings in magistrates' courts, it does not provide information on any subsequent modification to charges, nor does it provide any information on the outcome of proceedings.

Furthermore, this figure does not include those arrested under Operation Pentameter II who have been charged with offences other than human trafficking related offences, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain, or money laundering offences.

The CPS's records do not show how many of the 125 prosecutions have resulted in conviction or the sentence passed. Cases from Operation Pentameter II are at different stages in the criminal justice system. However, the impact of Operation Pentameter II on the numbers of prosecutions for human trafficking will be considered as part of the overall assessment being undertaken by the UK Human Trafficking Centre and the Association of Chief Police Officers. The assessment will be published as soon as possible.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Solicitor-General with reference to the 125 prosecutions made under Operation Pentameter II, how many defendants received legal aid; and how much funding from the public purse has been made available for such legal aid. [235543]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) does not record whether a defendant received legal aid. Legal aid is the responsibility of the Legal Services Commission, which is sponsored by the Ministry of Justice.

The UK Human Trafficking Centre is the central repository for intelligence and information on cases of human trafficking.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Solicitor-General pursuant to the answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 351, for what reasons 403 of the 528 persons arrested under Operation Pentameter 2 were not prosecuted. [235646]

The Solicitor-General: The statistics to which my answer of 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, columns 351-2W, refers are extracted from the Crown Prosecution Service's (CPS) Compass Case Management Information System records which show that during the period, October 2007 to September 2008, 125 prosecutions have been brought on charges alleging trafficking for sexual exploitation and five prosecutions for other human trafficking related offences. Records held by the CPS are offence based, and these figures include cases investigated during Operation Pentameter II.

The Pentameter II National Co-ordination Group announced that there had been 528 arrests for the six month period of police activity during Operation Pentameter II. An arrested person is only charged if the CPS is of the view that the two-stage test set out in the Code for Crown Prosecutors is satisfied. First, there must be sufficient evidence to create a realistic prospect of conviction. Second, it must be in the public interest to proceed. If the evidential element of the test is not made out then the case will not go ahead, however strong the public interest in prosecuting. Not all of those arrested during Operation Pentameter II will necessarily have been charged, and many of those who have been charged may not have been prosecuted in court yet as cases are at different stages in the criminal justice system.

Further, those arrested may have been charged with offences other than human trafficking related offences, such as causing or inciting prostitution for gain, money laundering, assisting unlawful immigration to a member state (facilitation), rape, kidnapping, false imprisonment and threats to kill. Prosecutions for these other offences will not appear in the CPS figures for human trafficking.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Alcoholic Drinks: Statistics

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what methodology his Department uses to extrapolate data from completed returns to compile the Alcohol, Entertainment and Late Night Refreshment Statistics; whether the same methodology has been used in each of the last two years; and how differences in the ways in which data is gathered is accounted for within this methodology. [234824]

Mr. Sutcliffe: In order to make meaningful comparisons between the 2007 and 2008 collections, figures were scaled up to national totals for England and Wales, therefore accounting for the different levels of response.

The extrapolation process used in the 2008 publication made use of the two years' worth of data available—using 2007 information to impute for missing 2008 figures and vice-versa. Estimates were produced on an individual licensing authority basis and then aggregated to provide estimated totals for England and Wales for key headline statistics in both years. The process was discussed with external experts and is explained in full in the 'Survey Methodology' section in the 2008 publication which is only available online at (page 35):

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/AE-Statistics-bulletin-2008.pdf

2007 results were based on reported figures only and were not extrapolated within the first publication.

A consistent approach has been used to collect the data for this exercise over the past two years, though some questions in the questionnaire were improved in 2008 to provide greater clarity for respondents. A small number of new questions were added to reflect additional changes to the licensing regime. A full list of changes can be found in the 'Methodology' section in the 2008 publication available online at (page7):

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/research/AE-Statistics-bulletin-2008.pdf

There were no differences in the way in which data were gathered. The response rate improved in the second year of the collection due to licensing authorities experience of answering the questionnaire and development of their licensing software systems. Extrapolation accounted for the different levels of response, and comparisons were only made on like-for-like questions.

Gaming Machines

Mr. Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what plans the Government has to revise its guidance on prizes and stakes on slot machines. [235649]

Mr. Sutcliffe: The Government do not issue guidance on gaming machine stakes and prizes. We have recently completed a consultation on proposed increases to stake and prize limits for lower categories of gaming machines, and is considering how best to proceed. At the same time the Gambling Commission is consulting on proposed revisions to the technical standards for gaming machines.

Sports: Finance

Hugh Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport what criteria the National Sports Foundation require to be met for them to guarantee matched funding for projects for more than one year. [235472]

Mr. Sutcliffe: Sport England have advised that the National Sports Foundation cannot guarantee match funding a project for more than one year as its funding comes from Exchequer sources, which must be spent in the year in which funding is awarded.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bees: Diseases

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding was allocated by his Department for treatment of *(a)* varroa destructor mite, *(b)* tracheal mites, *(c)* small hive beetle, *(d)* Israel acute paralysis virus, *(e)* European foulbrood, *(f)* Kashmir bee virus, *(g)* deformed wing virus and *(h)* bee dysentery in each of the last five years. [234407]

Jane Kennedy *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* Advice on treatment options and good husbandry practices is provided free of charge by the National Bee Unit's bee inspectors, but treatment of pests and diseases affecting bees is the responsibility of the beekeeper and can often be achieved through good husbandry practices. There are no antiviral treatments available for honey bee viruses and control of the varroa vector is therefore essential.

In the case of European foulbrood, the provision of an antibiotic treatment (which can only be applied by authorised bee inspectors) is funded by DEFRA under a memorandum of understanding with the Veterinary Laboratories Agency. The cost of this was as follows:

	£
2003-04	6,066
2004-05	4,035
2005-06	6,663
2006-07	3,077
2007-08	2,912

Bees: Research

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment he has made of the effect of neonicotinoid pesticides on the honeybee population; and if he will make a statement. [234135]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* I refer the hon. Member to the answers given on 11 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 273W, and 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1024W.

Departmental Older Workers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people aged over *(a)* 55 and *(b)* 60 years were recruited by his Department in 2007-08; and what percentage in each case this was of the number of new recruits. [228756]

Huw Irranca-Davies: In 2007-08, DEFRA (excluding the Executive Agencies) recruited eight staff who were over 55 years of age and fewer than five staff who were over 60 years of age. This represented 2.8 per cent. and 0.7 per cent. respectively of all new recruits in the period.

Greater Manchester

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding his Department and its agencies has given to *(a)* the Greater Manchester Centre for Voluntary Organisations, *(b)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Support, *(c)* Greater Manchester Voluntary Sector Learning Consortium, *(d)* Manchester is my Planet and *(e)* Manchester: Knowledge Capital in the last 24 months. [233256]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 4 November 2008]:* This information is not held centrally for DEFRA and its agencies and so would incur disproportionate cost.

Gun Sports

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what official status is afforded by his Department to the 2005 Charter for Shooting drawn up by the hon. Member for Reading, West. [234617]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The Charter for Shooting is not an official departmental document.

Horses: Conservation

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many ponies on Dartmoor have been issued with *(a)* Heritage Trust List passports and *(b)* Traditional Dartmoor Pony passports. [233671]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* 426 Heritage Trust List passports have been issued to ponies on Dartmoor. According to Dartmoor Pony Society records, 51 ponies have to date moved off Dartmoor, leaving 375 HTL registered ponies on the moor.

There are 350 supplementary and fully registered ponies on Dartmoor within the main body of the Studbook, which contains pedigree only animals.

Mr. Steen: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if he will instruct the Dartmoor Pony Society to restart issuing Heritage Trust List passports to owners of ponies on Dartmoor which meet the Heritage Trust List requirements; and if he will make a statement. [233673]

Huw Irranca-Davies *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The Dartmoor Pony Society have told us that they have temporarily suspended the issue of Heritage Trust List passports and have sought our advice. DEFRA is looking into this matter and will take appropriate action if required.

Mentally Ill Staff

Lynne Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information his Department has gathered on the effect of its policies and practices on the recruitment, development and retention of employees with mental illnesses within *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the public sector bodies for which he has responsibility; and what use has been made of that information. [228548]

Huw Irranca-Davies: Under the Disability Equality Duty introduced by the Disability Discrimination Act 2005, the Department and its public sector bodies listed in the associated regulations are required to publish and implement Disability Equality Schemes. These are plans setting out how they will carry out the Disability Equality Duty, monitor and report on progress. In particular this includes their arrangements for gathering information on the effects of their policies and practices on recruitment, development and retention of their disabled employees, including those with mental health conditions, and making use of that information.

The following arrangements are set out in the Department's disability equality scheme:

> DEFRA has set an explicit objective to improve the service it provides in relation to mental health issues by December 2009, and another to adopt the Social Model of disability.
>
> DEFRA recognises that the biggest barrier experienced by many people with mental health issues is other people's attitudes. Staff are encouraged to declare whether they are disabled and by the end of 2008 DEFRA will have introduced enhanced data gathering systems that will enable it to identify the different barriers that disabled staff face in their employment. While information is not collected on different impairment categories, the barrier categories will be used to identify those staff who state that 'people's attitudes towards them' is the biggest barrier that they face.
>
> To support the achievement of these objectives DEFRA has adopted the principals of the Department of Health sponsored programme 'Action on stigma'.
>
> DEFRA is taking action to meet our objectives in a number of ways.

It has an employee support service that provides a confidential telephone service 24 hrs a day, seven days a week. One to one counselling can also be arranged and managers and staff can also receive occupational health advice and support.

A recent initiative is the development of an Employee Support Service externally hosted website for staff use. This includes information on services, factsheets on mental health issues; links to external sources of help and support. This website can be accessed from any computer and can, therefore, be used in complete confidence. This internet based provision is further supported by training and awareness sessions for staff and managers.

DEFRA's guidance on making adjustments for disabled staff provides advice and examples of the types of support that may be appropriate for people with mental health impairments, for example; job redesign, counselling or time off for therapy.

The Department fully supports the right of all employees to be treated with dignity and respect at work. DEFRA's Dignity at Work policies have been reviewed to ensure that they are effective at tackling the sorts of unacceptable behaviour that people with mental health issues may experience in the workplace. There are trained Bullying and Harassment Officers and Mediators to support staff in the resolution of their complaints.

Additionally DEFRA is joining a working group on Civil Service employment set up by the Cabinet Office. This group has been set up to support delivery of the Socially Excluded Adults Public Service Agreement which aims to significantly increase the number of people with learning difficulties and severe mental health issues (as well as ex-offenders and young adults leaving care) in employment by April 2011.

The public sector bodies sponsored by my department that are subject to these requirements are responsible for publishing and implementing their own disability equality schemes.

In line with the Disability Equality Duty, a report will be published every three years by the Secretary of State for the Environment to show: progress towards disability equality in his policy sector; and proposals for co-ordination of future work by relevant public authorities within his policy sector. These reports will show what impact, if any, policies have had on the recruitment and retention of disabled people including those with mental health conditions, and set out proposals to address any gaps identified when establishing the progress made across the policy sector. The first report must be published by December 2008.

National Parks: South Downs

Martin Horwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what his planned date is for making an announcement on the possible designation of the South Downs as a national park. [234428]

Huw Irranca-Davies: We are awaiting receipt of the inspector's report which he has indicated he will submit at the end of November. We anticipate that a decision will be made in early summer 2009.

Nature Conservation

Mr. Peter Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans he has to allocate funding under the Environment Transformation Fund International Window for the conservation of endangered species. [233426]

Huw Irranca-Davies: The aim of the Environmental Transformation Fund (ETF) is to support poverty reduction through environmental protection and help poor countries respond to climate change.

The UK intends to make available the £800 million from the ETF for the new multi-donor Climate Investment Funds (CIFs). UK and other donors have committed US$6.1 billion to the funds.

These funds are a three year initiative as an interim, international financing arrangement to help developing countries respond to the challenges posed by climate change. They will help promote clean technology, tackle unsustainable deforestation, and help developing countries better deal with the impact of climate change.

Environmental sustainability, biodiversity, climate change and poverty reduction are closely interlinked, so we are working hard to ensure the maximisation of environmental co-benefits. The main focus of the funds will be climate change (including energy and forestry), but we have ensured that their remit explicitly includes the maximisation of other natural resource benefits including the conservation of endangered species.

International ETF is now the responsibility of the Department of Energy and Climate Change, though DEFRA will still be working to incorporate environmental co-benefits.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230652]

Huw Irranca-Davies: My Department does submit documents for approval for Crystal Mark Status. However, information on the number of documents submitted and approved is not collated centrally and the figures could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Soil: Research

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent research he has commissioned or evaluated on soil quality. [233868]

Huw Irranca-Davies: DEFRA has a dedicated Soil Protection Research Programme with an annual budget of £1.3 million, but also funds research relating to soil quality throughout its research programme.

Examples of recent research include:

Assembling UK-wide data on soil carbon (and greenhouse gas fluxes) in the context of land management.

Organic Manure and Crop Organic Carbon Returns—Effects on Soil Quality.

Scoping biological indicators of soil quality—phase II.

All DEFRA research is available on the DEFRA website.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Hospitals

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which armed forces hospitals have been closed in the last 30 years; and what the date of each such closure was. [226658]

Mr. Kevan Jones: *[holding answer 15 October 2008]:* Details of the British Military Hospitals (BMH) that have closed since 1978 are shown as follows.

Country	*Hospital*	*Closed*
UK	Princess of Wales RAF Hospital, Ely	1992
	Royal Naval Hospital, Stonehouse (Plymouth)	1995
	Queen Elizabeth Military Hospital, Woolwich	1995
	Cambridge Military Hospital, Aldershot	1995
	Princess Alexandra RAF Hospital, Wroughton	1996
	Princess Mary RAF Hospital, Halton	1996
	Duchess of Kent Military Hospital, Catterick	1999
	Duchess of Kent Psychiatric Hospital, Catterick	2003
	Royal Hospital Haslar, Gosport	2007
Cyprus	BMH Dhekelia[1]	1978
Gibraltar	Royal Naval Hospital, Gibraltar[2]	2008
Falkland Islands	Military Wing at King Edward VII Memorial Hospital	2000
Nepal	BMH Dharan	1989
Hong Kong	British Military Hospital, Kings Park	1996

[1] The Princess Mary Hospital at Akrotiri remains in operation.

[2] Medical care is provided by the new, purpose built Princess Royal Medical Centre.

Officials are working to retrieve information on BMHs in Germany and to identify other overseas hospitals that closed during the last 30 years. However any records retained will have been archived and cannot be immediately accessed. I will write to my right hon. Friend once this exercise is complete to advise him of the results.

Substantive answer from Kevan Jones to Frank Dobson:

I undertook to write to you in answer to your Parliamentary Question on 17 October 2008 (Official Report, columns 1561-62W) asking which British Military Hospitals (BMH) had closed since 1978.

Details of the hospitals to have closed in Germany are shown below.

Country	*Hospital*	*Closed*
Germany	BMH Munster	1991
	BMH Hannover	1992
	BMH Berlin	1994
	BMH Iserlohn	1994
	BMH Rinteln	1996
	BMH Wegburg	1996

In addition it has also been identified that the following military hospitals closed from 1978 onwards.

Country	*Hospital*	*Closed*
UK	Royal Victoria Military Hospital, Netley	1978
	RAF Nocton Hall[1]	1984
Malta	Royal Naval Hospital, Mtarfa	1979

[1] Used as a British military hospital until 1984 when the US Air Force took it over.

Owing to the time period covered, many files and information resources no longer exist and any available information is not held centrally. It is possible that the details provided are incomplete, however, any further efforts to identify other military hospitals will incur disproportionate cost.

Finally, it might be helpful if I gave a little more detail on the reference in my previous answer to the Royal Hospital Haslar. It is correct that Haslar ceased to be a "military hospital" in the normal sense of that term several years ago, and in 2007 the Commanding Officer was withdrawn, when Haslar ceased formally to be a military unit. However, the hospital is still open for NHS patients and will continue to be operated in partnership between the MOD and Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust until its final closure in the latter part of next year.

Armed Forces: Housing

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the merits of allowing additional departmental housing sites with no medium-term requirements to be made available to the public on short-term leases. [234206]

Mr. Kevan Jones *[holding answer 10 November 2008]:* The Department is currently exploring the possibility of sub-letting further service family accommodation properties via a commercial agent in locations where there is no medium term requirement but where a longer-term requirement remains. To date, a total of 27 properties have been made available in the Innsworth area and 21 properties at Woodbridge.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr. Swire: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Mastiff and *(b)* Jackal armoured vehicles are available for training purposes in the UK. [234393]

Mr. Quentin Davies: There are 13 Mastiff Troop Carrying Vehicles and 34 Jackal Armoured Vehicles currently available for training purposes in the UK. A further four Mastiff Troop Carrying Vehicles are available for training purposes to UK forces based in Germany. In addition, 46 Mastiffs and 33 Jackals are expected to become available over the course of the next five months which will also be used to support training.

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the comparative performance in protecting troops of the Snatch Land Rover and alternative American vehicles; and if he will make a statement. [234627]

Mr. Quentin Davies: No direct comparison with alternative American vehicles has been made. Vehicles are procured to meet the user defined requirement. While it is not possible to make any vehicle invulnerable to every possible attack, there has been a programme of continuing improvement to the protection level of vehicles in service. Snatch in particular has been reconfigured for Afghanistan, with a new variant, Snatch Vixen. As a result of modifications to the running gear, chassis, engine and other automotive components, the Snatch Vixen benefits from an increased payload, which has been used to enhance both the mobility and protection of this vehicle. These modifications mean that the new variant offers the highest levels of protection for its size and weight.

Ann Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what types of vehicles are being considered to fulfill the Wolfhound designation; and whether the preference will be given to vehicles offering the greatest *(a)* level of protection and *(b)* load capacity. [234773]

Mr. Quentin Davies: As contract negotiations for the fulfilment of the Wolfhound designation are continuing, it is too early to confirm vehicle types. There are, however, a number of key user requirements that define the overall capability; the level of protection and load capacity are not exclusive requirements. I am able to confirm, however, that Wolfhound will have the highest levels of mine blast protection available.

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had with the US administration on the potential for UK participation in the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle programme. [234955]

Mr. Quentin Davies: Defence Ministers have not had any discussions with the US Administration about the Joint Light Tactical Vehicle programme. Since the establishment of the USA/UK Joint Light Tactical Vehicle (JLTV)/Operational Utility Vehicle System (OUVS) Working Group in July 2008, a number of discussions on participation have taken place by officials.

The JLTV capability is a replacement for HUMVEE and performs both a utility vehicle and patrol vehicle role. It therefore goes beyond the requirement for OUVS and the two parties have agreed that there is not enough synergy to warrant collaboration on the acquisition of vehicles at this time. The Working Group does however, continue to share research and development between the two programmes.

Defence Equipment

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence in respect of which models of Royal Air Force vehicles his Department has plans to retro-fit *(a)* explosion suppressant foam and *(b)* other risk-reducing technologies. [233575]

Mr. Quentin Davies *[holding answer 6 November 2008]:* Explosion Suppressant foam (ESF) is one form of fuel tank inerting (FTI). The other method is the introduction of inert gas to the fuel tank's air cavity, reducing oxygen levels and minimising the potential for explosive ignition of vapours. FTI is already fitted to some aircraft types within the Royal Air Force, including the C130s, and there are plans in place to fit a number of other aircraft types. In addition, the Department is considering its response to the recommendations made by the coroner at the conclusion of the inquest into the loss of Hercules flight XV179.

All aircraft deployed into operational theatres are fitted with defensive aids suites features commensurate with the assessment of the threat faced and the role of the aircraft.

I am withholding information pertaining to the fitting of specific survivability features to individual aircraft types as their disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Department of Community Mental Health

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many new referrals to each Department of Community Mental Health there have been in each year since 2003. [234923]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The Ministry of Defence's 15 military Departments of Community Mental Health (DCMHs) across the UK (plus satellite centres in Cyprus and Germany) provide out-patient mental health care for members of the armed forces. The Department does not hold centrally data on DCMH attendance prior to January 2007 and the data for 2008 are in the process of being validated. Therefore the figures in the following table relate to the calendar year of 2007 only.

DCMH	*New attendances in 2007*
Aldershot	394
Brize Norton	654
Catterick	730
Colchester	340
Cranwell	239
Cyprus	81
Donnington	385
Faslane	178
Germany	578
Haslar	306
HQNI	145
Kinloss	166
Leuchars	155
Marham	211
Plymouth	488
Tidworth	379
Woolwich	228
Total	5,647

These figures record all new attendances at DCMHs (i.e. people who have not attended a DCMH previously), and therefore does not include those who were receiving ongoing treatment which started prior to January 2007. The figures include all people who attended a DCMH appointment, not all of whom will have been subsequently diagnosed to have a mental disorder.

Data from the Defence Analysis and Statistical Advice (DASA) Psychiatric Morbidity Report indicate that during 2007 3,917 personnel were identified as having been diagnosed with a mental disorder. This equates to 69.4 per cent. of those who attended an appointment at a DCMH.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233828]

Mr. Kevan Jones: As at 1 October 2008, 10.1 per cent. of civilian staff work part-time (this figure excludes personnel in Trading Funds, locally engaged civilians, and Royal Fleet Auxiliary staff). The level of detail required on alternative working patterns is not held centrally, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

It is MOD policy that all civilian employees can apply to work flexibly, e.g. part-time, job share, staggered hours compressed hours e.g. nine day fortnight or four day week. Managers are encouraged to agree requests whenever possible.

Departmental Lighting

Nick Harvey: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many energy saving light bulbs his Department has *(a)* used and *(b)* bought in each of the last five years. [233134]

Mr. Kevan Jones: The quantity of energy saving light bulbs bought for use in ships and temporary accommodation for each of the last five years is in the following table. These figures do not include light bulbs bought for accommodation or buildings, which are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

	Quantity
2004	[1]—
2005	11,800
2006	2,510
2007	27,160
2008	8,360

[1] Not held centrally.

Usage figures are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235247]

Mr. Kevan Jones: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 674W to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson).

Future Surface Combatant

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Future Surface Combatant programme is expected to go through the initial gate phase; and when the first vessel is expected to enter service with the Royal Navy. [235648]

Mr. Quentin Davies: On current plans, the Future Surface Combatant programme is scheduled to achieve initial gate approval in mid-2009, after which it will enter its assessment phase. The first of the vessels is currently expected to enter service late in the next decade.

HMS Illustrious

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many personnel from HMS Illustrious went absent without leave in each of the last 12 months. [234918]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The following table shows absence without leave (AWOL) from HMS Illustrious in each of the last 12 months:

	AWOL
November 2007	1
December 2007	0
January 2008	1
February 2008	0
March 2008	0
April 2008	1
May 2008	0
June 2008	2
July 2008	1
August 2008	0
September 2008	1
October 2008	0

Notes:
1. Formal absenteeism (AWOL) is recorded by the Royal Navy once an individual has been absent for more than 24 hours.
2. The Royal Navy records AWOL statistics by the number of incidences of AWOL rather than the number of people who have gone AWOL. The figures could therefore include repeat offenders.

Morocco: Armed Forces

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what agreements his Department has with the government of Morocco on training facilities; and whether any facilities included in the agreement are in the Western Sahara. [235119]

Mr. Bob Ainsworth: The Governments of the United Kingdom and Morocco signed a Joint Accord on Technical and Military Co-operation in 1993 under which the two countries conduct bi-lateral military co-operation including training. This arrangement does not specify what facilities are used in Morocco and does not cover the territory of Western Sahara. The British armed forces do not conduct bi-lateral military activity with Western Sahara, the status of which is yet to be determined by the UN.

Nuclear Weapons: Finance

Norman Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent estimate he has made of the total life cycle costs of *(a)* the Polaris/Chevaline and *(b)* the Trident nuclear deterrent systems, expressed in current cost equivalents and broken down by category. [234203]

Mr. Hutton: The Polaris/Chevaline system was replaced as the UK's strategic nuclear deterrent capability by the Trident system in the mid-1990s. Consequently, no recent estimate has been made of the costs of Polaris and the information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The costs of the current Trident nuclear deterrent are estimated at around £15.7 billion for acquisition at 2008-09 prices and around £19.3 billion on the same price basis for in-service costs from entry into service until final disposal.

These estimates exclude the costs of the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Children: Maintenance

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what average length of time was taken to restart child maintenance payments after the death of a parent with care in the latest period for which figures are available. [229579]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 23 October 2008]*: I have consulted with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission who have confirmed that the information requested is not available. However provisions under the Child Support Act 1991 ensure there is no break in payment where a new application is made within eight weeks.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which interactions with the tax and benefits systems will alert staff to draw attention to parents with care of the child maintenance to which they are entitled. [232492]

Kitty Ussher *[holding answer 3 November 2008]*: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, which interactions with the tax and benefits systems will alert staff to draw attention to parents with care of the child maintenance to which they are entitled. [232492]

The Child Maintenance Options service, which is part of the Commission, gives impartial information and support to help parents who do not live together make informed choices about what child maintenance arrangements are open to them. Options services are available via the internet, over the telephone and face-to-face.

Where a person who is claiming tax credits reports a change of circumstances that suggests they are now a lone parent, Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs will provide contact details for the Options Service.

In the case of lone parents claiming benefits, Jobcentre Plus will provide contact details for the Options service, and, with the client's consent, will provide Child Maintenance Options with their contact details so that the client can be proactively contacted.

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in what proportion of Child Support Agency (CSA) cases the non-resident parent was not compliant with the maintenance award calculated by the CSA at the latest date for which information is available. [233663]

Kitty Ussher: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have therefore asked the Commissioner to write to my right hon. Friend with the information requested.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Support Agency, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in what proportion of Child Support Agency (CSA) cases the non-resident parent was not compliant with the maintenance award calculated by the CSA at the latest date for which information is available. [233863]

At the end of September 2008, of the 1,247,300 cases with a calculation or assessment, 14% were classed as nil compliant.

Further information on the status of all cases held by the Agency is regularly published in Table 6 of the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics, the latest copy of which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/child_support/csa_quarterly_sep08.asp

I hope you find this answer helpful.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what percentage of employees in his Departmenta are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233817]

Jonathan Shaw: The information is as follows.

Flexible working contracts

At the end of September 2008, 35 per cent. (39,490) of employees in the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) were on part-time flexible working contracts.

Job share

Details of job sharing are held on individual clerical records. To extract data from clerical records would be at disproportionate cost.

Home working

The Department does not collect data to identify whether employees work from home or another location for a part of the week.

DWP tries to be as flexible as possible, in addition to working from home permanently on a contractual basis employees may occasionally work from home on an ad hoc basis. Ad-hoc arrangements allowing employees to work from home are not uncommon. Statistical data are not collected about ad-hoc home working.

Departmental Databases

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what use *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies make of (i) MOSAIC data and (ii) ACORN data. [222135]

Jonathan Shaw: The information requested is as follows.

(a) The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) currently makes no use of either data source.

(b) MOSAIC data is currently used by the Pensions, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) and the Rent Service.

The PDCS use MOSAIC data to enhance our understanding of the pensioner population, and to support pension credit take-up activity. This helps provide additional customer insight when we have no internal data, so that communications and marketing can be suitably targeted.

The Rent Service also uses the household version of MOSAIC data to help determine localities and broad rental market area for fair rent and housing benefit decisions. The data have been integrated into their geographical information systems so that an immediate understanding of neighbourhood demographics can be determined.

ACORN analysis was used, on the Department's behalf, by the Central Office of Information (COI) in 2007-08. It identified postcode sectors in 50 local authority areas for mailing purposes, as part of the targeting benefit thieves campaign, "No Ifs, No Buts".

Housing Benefit

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects the joint report his Department has produced with the Treasury on housing benefit to be published. [235566]

Kitty Ussher: An update will be published in the forthcoming White Paper on Welfare Reform.

Incapacity Benefit

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of incapacity benefit claimants likely to undertake the new work capability assessment in each month up to and including December 2010. [231469]

Jonathan Shaw: Currently the work capability assessment is applied only to employment and support allowance claimants. We expect that on average 50,000 to 55,000 new claimants per month will undertake the work capability assessment depending on the level of inflows.

The Green Paper "No one written off: reforming welfare to reward responsibility", Cm 7363, which was published in July, proposed that all existing incapacity benefits customers would be transferred to employment and support allowance by 2013, and as part of that process the work capability assessment would be applied.

The public consultation has recently closed and we are currently considering representations received. We will respond to the consultation in due course, including on the process of applying the work capability assessment to existing customers.

Jobcentres

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what change there has been in the number of vacancies available through job centres in each of *(a)* the last four years and *(b)* the last four quarters. [233572]

Mr. McNulty *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The information is in the following tables.

Numbers of notified vacancies for Great Britain by year

	Number of vacancies notified	*Year by year difference*	*Percentage change*
2004-05	3,537,847	n/a	n/a
2005-06	3,113,346	-424,501	-12.0
2006-07	3,614,168	500,822	16.1
2007-08	4,479,190	865,022	23.9

Numbers of notified vacancies for Great Britain by quarter

Quarter	*Number of vacancies notified*	*Quarter by quarter difference*	*Percentage change*
October to December 2007	1,209,838	n/a	n/a
January to March 2008	1,015,788	-194,050	-16.0
April to June 2008	1,103,007	87,219	8.6
July to September 2008	1,075,075	-27,932	-2.5

Notes:

1. Changes to Jobcentre Plus vacancy handling procedures have led to a major discontinuity in the vacancy statistic pre and post May 2006. See:
http://www.nomisweb.co.uk/articles/177.aspx#may06
before comparing data over this period. Interpretation of these data needs to take account of changes in recent years to Jobcentre Plus procedures for taking and handling vacancies.
2. These figures are not fully comparable over time and may not indicate developments in the labour market.

Source:

Office for National Statistics

New Deal for 25 Plus

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal 25 Plus Programme entered immediately into sustainable employment in each month since May 2007, broken down by *(a)* region and *(b)* Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [231077]

Mr. McNulty: The available information has been placed in the Library.

New Deal for Young People

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of claimants on the New Deal for Young People Programme entered sustainable employment immediately *(a)* in each month since May 2007 and *(b)* in each of the last 12 months (i) in total and (ii) in each (A) region and (B) Jobcentre Plus district; and if he will make a statement. [230563]

Mr. McNulty: The information has been placed in the Library.

Severe Disablement Allowance

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the average processing time was for severe disablement allowance applications in each quarter of each of the last five years *(a)* in total and *(b)* broken down by the lowest geographical area for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [231085]

Jonathan Shaw: Severe disablement allowance was replaced by incapacity benefit for incapacitated young persons (IB(Y)). This element of incapacity benefit considers claims from customers aged 16-24.

From 2004 to 2006 the lowest geographical area for which figures are available was at a district level. From 2006 to date the lowest geographical area for which figures are available is at benefit delivery centre (BDC) level.

The information has been placed in the Library.

Social Security Benefits

Jim Cousins: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate his Department has made of *(a)* the number of non-UK citizens claiming family benefits in the UK and *(b)* the number of UK citizens claiming family benefits elsewhere in the EU in accordance with Article 73 of Regulation 1408/71. [234199]

Mr. Timms: I have been asked to reply.

Nationality is not a condition of entitlement to child benefit or tax credits, so it is not recorded. Therefore information about how many non-UK nationals overall are claiming UK family benefits under the EC regulations is not available.

Information about the number of UK nationals claiming family benefits elsewhere in the EU/EEA is a matter for the relevant authorities of other member states.

Social Security Benefits: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of the working age population in each principal seaside town in England and Wales have claimed *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* lone parent benefit and *(c)* jobseeker's allowance in each of the last five years. [235547]

Kitty Ussher: The information cannot be provided due to disproportionate costs.

Social Security Benefits: Lone Parents

Mr. Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many lone parents he expects to seek loans under the lone parent transition loan arrangements as a result of transition from income support to jobseekers allowance/employment support allowance; and what budget has been planned for such arrangements. [233057]

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the average amount of a lone parent transition loan taken out by lone parents during the transition from claiming income support to claiming other benefits in each phase of the eligibility rules for income support introduced by the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement; [233229]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents who will require a lone parent transition loan during their transition from claiming income support to claiming other benefits in each phase of the

eligibility rules for income support introduced by the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233248]

Kitty Ussher: The planning assumption for the number of lone parents who may require a lone parent transition loan is 55,000 for Phase 1 of the lone parent changes only. From April 2009, Phase 2 and 3 lone parent customers will begin to be migrated to standard paydays as part of periodicity changes, therefore removing the need for a transition loan.

Lone parent transition loans will be paid under crisis loan legislation. The crisis loan funding comes from the amount allocated annually for budgeting and crisis loans. The lone parent transitional loans will be funded from this budget.

No estimates have been made of average amounts of lone parent transitional loans, but the Department has worked on the assumption that budgets will be available to cover the cost of lone parents seeking loans during the transition from income support to jobseeker's allowance or employment and support allowance in Phase 1 of the lone parent changes.

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of lone parents to be moved from income support onto *(a)* jobseeker's allowance, *(b)* employment support allowance and *(c)* other benefits in each month of the next three years as a result of the provisions of the Social Security (Lone Parents and Miscellaneous) Regulations 2008; and if he will make a statement. [233247]

Kitty Ussher: Information is not available broken down by month. Based on internal analysis carried out for departmental planning purposes, current estimates for each quarter of the number of lone parents in receipt of income support who will move onto jobseeker's allowance, employment and support allowance or income support on grounds other than being a lone parent as a result of the legislative changes are shown in the following table.

	Jobseeker's allowance	*Employment and support allowance*	*Income support (on grounds other than being a lone parent)*
March-May 2009	23,200	8,450	8,000
June-August 2009	9,200	3,350	8,400
September-November 2009	16,500	6,000	5,650
December-February 2010	11,150	4,050	3,850
March-May 2010	14,900	5,450	5,150
June-August 2010	18,700	6,800	6,450
September-November 2010	6,600	2,400	2,300
December-February 2011	35,300	12,850	13,250
March-May 2011	17,700	6,450	6,100
June-August 2011	5,200	1,900	1,800
September-November 2011	5,150	1,850	1,750

Notes:

1. Figures based on internal analysis of DWP administrative data.
2. Figures rounded to the nearest 50.
3. Figures exceed the number of lone parents with children aged seven and over currently on income support, as it includes lone parents with youngest children who become too old within the year and who are moved off income support.
4. The changes are being introduced for new and repeat claimants from November 2008, and for existing income support claimants from March 2009.
5. The question has been interpreted as the number of existing income support claimants affected only.

These estimates are based on a number of assumptions the Department has made around the number of lone parents who will be on income support when entitlement ceases, and the destination of lone parents when they lose entitlement.

We have commissioned a comprehensive evaluation of the changes and will monitor their impact over time. These estimates are sensitive to the particular assumptions made and will be fully tested in the evaluation.

Social Security Benefits: Reform

Mr. Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has received a response from the Scottish Executive to its consultation on the Welfare Reform Green Paper. [235539]

Kitty Ussher: Yes, we have received a response from the Scottish Government.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Harper: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to answer Question 228497, on carers, tabled on 15 October 2008. [235622]

James Purnell: I replied to the hon. Member's question on 10 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 925W.

PRIME MINISTER

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Prime Minister what the total cost of his Office between 27 June 2007 and 27 June 2008 was. [231135]

The Prime Minister: The overall running costs of Downing street for the financial year 2007-08 were £22.78 million.

The figure for 2007-08 includes the exceptional costs of £810,000 for essential renovation to the exterior of the Downing street estate undertaken in accordance with the requirements of English Heritage

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Algeria: Overseas Aid

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on aid to Saharawi refugees in Algeria in each of the last three years; and how much is planned to be spent in 2009-10. [235124]

Mr. Michael Foster: The Department for International Development provides aid indirectly to Saharawi refugees in Algeria through the UN Refugee Agency (UNHCR) and the European Commission's Humanitarian Office's (ECHO).

DFID is the sixth largest donor to the UNHCR. Since 2006, DFID has provided up to £19 million per year of unearmarked funds with plans to continue this in 2009-10. In 2007 alone, UNHCR spent $6 million on programmes in Algeria; almost all of this on providing protection and assistance to Saharawi refugees. DFID's unearmarked funds support the organisational capacity building and operations of UNHCR to enable it to effectively carry out its work with refugees.

The UK Government currently provide approximately 15 per cent. of the European Commission's Humanitarian Office's (ECHO) core budget. In 2005, ECHO provided €9.3 million to assist the Saharawi refugees in Algeria. In 2006, ECHO provided €10,900,000 (including an exceptional primary emergency response of € 900,000 to the February 2006 floods). In 2007 ECHO provided a further €10 million.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230206]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: Staff working for the Department for International Development (DFID) who have been found to commit disciplinary offences are subject to DFID's disciplinary procedures. This may lead to (i) a written warning, (ii) a final written warning, (iii) dismissal, dependant upon the actual offence and any previous disciplinary action.

Further sanctions available include "short touring" (early departure from an overseas posting), restrictions to applying for promotion opportunities and restrictions on applying for overseas postings. Such sanctions are considered on a case by case basis.

Action on confirmed disciplinary offences in the last three years were:

	First written warning	*Final written warning*	*Dismissal*
2007-08	6	7	7
2006-07	9	Less than 5	10
2005-06	7	Less than 5	7

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by his Department in the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [231438]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The Department for International Development (DFID) can confirm the following information:

(a) Equipment loss—Nine laptops were stolen during the period 2007-08. All DFID laptops have secure encryption technology and no data have been put at risk.

(b) The Department for International Development, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance, did not report any personal data related incidents for the period 2007-08.

Departmental Responsibilities

Mr. Pope: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development in which countries his Department has representation on the ground. [232844]

Mr. Douglas Alexander: The countries which have Department for International Development (DFID) representation on the ground are as shown in the following list:

Afghanistan
Albania
Armenia
Bangladesh
Barbados
Bolivia
Bosnia
Brazil
Burma
Burundi
Cambodia
China
Congo, Dem Rep
Ethiopia
Georgia
Ghana
Guyana
India
Indonesia
Iraq
Jamaica
Jordan
Kenya (covers Somalia)
Kosovo
Kyrgyzstan
Malawi0
Moldova
Montserrat
Mozambique
Nepal
Nicaragua
Nigeria
Pakistan
Palestinian Territories
Russia

Rwanda

Serbia

Sierra Leone (covers Liberia)

South Africa

St. Helena

Sudan

Tajikistan

Tanzania

Uganda

Vietnam

Yemen

Zambia

Zimbabwe

International Institutions

UK Representation/Delegation/ Mission to:	
European Union	
EU (European Union)	Brussels, Belgium
International Monetary Fund	
IMF (International Monetary Fund)	Washington, USA
United Nations	
FAO (Food & Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations)	Rome, Italy
UN (United Nations)	New York, USA
UN (United Nations)	Vienna, Austria
UN (United Nations)	Geneva, Switzerland
UNESCO (United Nations Educational, Scientific & Cultural Organisation)	Paris, France

TREASURY

Banks: Compensation

Harry Cohen: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 776W, on banks: compensation, what steps he plans to take to ensure that banks which have sought recourse to the banking rescue package are not commercially disadvantaged. [234945]

Ian Pearson: The banks which have sought recourse to the bank recapitalisation package will be more strongly capitalised and therefore better placed to serve the best long term interests of their shareholders, including the taxpayer.

Council Tax: Wales

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 21 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 716W, on council tax: Wales, what the web address of the page with the updated information is. [235049]

Mr. Timms: The information is accessed via:

www.voa.gov.uk

by clicking on the Council Tax tab/Information for Wales only/Details of Council Tax List alterations.

Departmental Internet

Mrs. May: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer for which Government websites his Department is responsible; how many visitors each received in the last period for which figures are available; and what the cost of maintaining each site was in that period. [235025]

Angela Eagle: Maintenance costs and visitor statistics in 2007-08 for websites which come under responsibility of the Chancellor of the Exchequer are as follows:

Website address	*Maintenance costs 2007-08 (£)*	*Unique visits in 2007-08*[1]
www.hm-treasury.gov.uk	117,332	3,174,007
www.the.gfp.treasury.gov.uk	0	101,443
www.isb.gov.uk	9,750	195,671
www.stakeholdersavinggov.uk	[2]—	51,495
www.ges.gov.uk	0	46,976
Sites hosted on a shared server:	15,924	—
www.gsr.gov.uk	—	198,557
www.euro.gov.uk	11,985	42,0876
www.financialinclusion-taskforce.org.uk	—	27,320
www.financial-reporting.gov.uk	—	[2]—

[1] Unless otherwise indicated.

[2] Unavailable.

Maintenance costs includes direct costs, for example web hosting, support and infrastructure.

Staff costs are not included as they could be established only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235240]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer given on 23 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 546W.

Departmental Planning Permission

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what planning applications were made by his Department between May 1997 and May 1998. [235099]

Angela Eagle: This information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies spent on each of the external public relations and marketing companies included in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework in each of the last 36 months. [222059]

Angela Eagle: In the past 36 months, neither the Treasury nor any of its agencies has had any direct expenditure with companies listed in the Central Office of Information's Public Relations Framework.

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many Questions for written answer were tabled to his Department in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235381]

Angela Eagle: The number of written questions received by the Treasury in each of the last six parliamentary Sessions has been as follows:

	Number
2002-03	3,963
2003-04	3,099
2004-05	1,377
2005-06	6,437
2006-07	4,432
2007-08 (to date)	3,737

Treasury Ministers endeavour to provide suitable substantive answers to all questions. Information is not available relating to questions which could not be answered wholly or in part because the data requested by questioners were not available or because it could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Derbyshire Offshore

Mr. Todd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) what UK regulatory involvement there was in the acquisition of Derbyshire Offshore by Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander International; [234776]

(2) what UK regulatory interest existed in Derbyshire Offshore prior to its acquisition by Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander International in December 2007. [234777]

Ian Pearson: Derbyshire Offshore (the trading name for Derbyshire Building Society's Isle of Man subsidiary) was established in the Isle of Man in 1990 and was regulated by the Isle of Man Financial Supervision Commission. The transfer of Derbyshire Offshore to Kaupthing, Singer and Friedlander Isle of Man was a commercial decision for the firms concerned and a matter for the Isle of Man authorities including the financial regulator, Isle of Man's Financial Supervision Commission.

MapInfo

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what datasets the Valuation Office Agency has purchased from the company MapInfo in the last five years. [235140]

Mr. Timms: None.

Non-domestic Rates: Ports

Robert Neill: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 7 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 594W, on non-domestic rates: ports, which Minister authorised the decision to impose backdated business rates on ports and shipping companies. [231871]

Mr. Timms: No ministerial authorisation was sought or given, since the actions taken by valuation officers were in discharge of their statutory duties to ensure properties liable to business rates are correctly assessed. The date from which any such changes take effect is prescribed by legislation, in relation to which valuation officers do not have discretion.

Public Sector: Procurement

Bob Spink: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will establish a Buy British preference in public sector procurement; and if he will make a statement. [234389]

Angela Eagle: Government policy is that all procurement decisions will be based on value for money. This is to ensure that the best use is made of taxpayers' money. Value for money is usually achieved through fair competition in open markets. Furthermore, the UK is bound by EU and World Trade Organisation public procurement rules which would rule out discriminating in favour of national suppliers.

Stamp Duties

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department made of the effects of the 1991-92 stamp duty suspension on the housing market. [235083]

Ian Pearson: Treasury Ministers do not have access to assessments and other documents prepared for previous administrations.

Stamp Duty Land Tax

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his Department's assessment is of the maximum financial value of a reasonable fee for the purposes of the Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief) (Amendment) Regulations 2008. [235077]

Ian Pearson: The Stamp Duty Land Tax (Zero-Carbon Homes Relief) (Amendment) Regulations 2008 provide for Government Departments to charge a fee when assessing whether a home is zero-carbon. The regulations do not prescribe the fee but they do limit how much can be charged to an amount which is "reasonable". The condition is designed to ensure that Government Departments cannot make a profit from provision of this service.

Taxation: Aviation

Mr. Syms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment his Department has made of the effect on the number of flights using UK airports of the introduction of aviation duty. [235492]

Angela Eagle: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to my hon. Friends the Members for Manchester, Blackley (Graham Stringer) and Derby, North (Mr. Laxton) and the hon. Member for Manchester, Withington (Mr. Leech) on 27 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 789-90W.

Valuation Office

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what Beacon groups the Valuation Office Agency uses in the revaluations and valuations of domestic properties; and what the determining characteristics are of each such group. [235082]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency uses a dwelling house coding system to capture the attributes of domestic properties in support of its domestic valuation work. An attribute code of 'Group' is used to identify the architectural style of a dwelling. For information about the characteristics of each 'Group' I refer the hon. Member to the 'Index to Groups' within the Valuation Office Agency's Property Details Guide (also known as 'Dwellinghouse coding—an illustrated guide'), which is available on its website at

http://www.voa.gov.uk/publications/DwellingHouseCodingGuide/files/indexto_groups.htm.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether, under the terms of the contract with rightmove.co.uk, homeowners may refuse to provide information regarding their homes to the Valuation Office Agency. [235084]

Mr. Timms: This is a matter between Rightmove plc, its member agents and their clients and did not form part of the contract between Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs and Rightmove.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what advice the Valuation Office Agency has sought from the Office of the Surveillance Commissioner; on what occasions; and for what purposes. [235085]

Mr. Timms: None.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer with reference to the Valuation Office Agency's management board meeting minutes of 24 July 2008, if he will place in the Library a copy of the practical advice on preparation of hard copy records that has been posted on the Agency's intranet. [235097]

Mr. Timms: I have done so.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will place in the Library a copy of the speech and presentation of the Chief Executive of the Valuation Office Agency made at the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation annual conference on 1 October 2008. [235100]

Mr. Timms: The speech and presentation are available on the Valuation Office Agency website (www.voa.gov.uk) via the following link:

http://www.voa.gov.uk/news/press08/Documents/Delivering_the_modern_valuation_service_-_2010_and_beyond.pdf

Valuation Office: Capgemini

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1956-7W, on the Valuation Office Agency: Capgemini, what the *(a)* names, *(b)* types and *(c)* functions of the licences categorised under the other costs heading are. [235050]

Mr. Timms: Core licences were purchased for the Envinsa software to be used in connection with the VOA's Geographical Information System.

Valuation Office: Consultants

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1957W, on the Valuation Office: consultants, what the *(a)* function and *(b)* nature of the consultancy support being provided for each of the two assignments in relation to the World Class Delivery programme is; and whether it includes assistance on the manner in which council tax valuations are conducted. [235052]

Mr. Timms: The function of the two assignments in relation to the World Class Delivery Programme was, respectively, to:

> Review and refine key aspects of the future operating model (digital records, centralised support processes and wireless technology) to ensure continuing clarity and cohesion across projects in terms of deliverables and benefits.
>
> Review the structure and funding of corporate services provision as part of the future operating model.

The nature of the assistance was to provide expert input, independent assurance and external benchmarking together with facilitated workshops.

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the Answer of 10 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 1957W, on the Valuation Office: consultants, if he will place in the Library the Brand Vista research report, redacting any commercially confidential elements. [235058]

Mr. Timms: The Brand Vista report primarily analyses and advises on the current and future market positioning of District Valuer Services. It is commercially sensitive and contains detailed feedback from clients which was given in confidence and for these reasons it is not appropriate to publish the report.

Valuation Office: Contracts

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many invitations to tender the Valuation Office Agency has issued in the last 12 months; and for what projects. [235017]

Mr. Timms: The Valuation Office Agency has not issued any invitations to tender in the last 12 months.

Valuation: Information and Communications Technology

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what work the Valuation Office Agency's processing centre in Rhyl will undertake in relation to digitisation of council tax valuation records. [235081]

Mr. Timms: No.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Brussels

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official visits he has made to Brussels in the last 12 months. [234170]

Mr. Woodward: None.

Departmental Correspondence

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of correspondence received by his Department has been responded to in less than a month in each month since May 2007. [234235]

Mr. Woodward: The information requested is shown in the following table.

	Total per month	*Successful*	*Percentage within 30 days/month*
May 2007	66	58	87.88
June 2007	96	86	89.58
July 2007	96	84	87.50
August 2007	53	44	83.02
September 2007	58	50	86.21
October 2007	96	78	81.25
November 2007	69	55	79.71
December 2007	71	55	77.46
January 2008	91	82	90.11
February 2008	75	61	81.33
March 2008	60	44	73.33
April 2008	109	87	79.82
May 2008	95	75	78.95
June 2008	115	100	86.96
July 2008	103	74	71.84
August 2008	80	61	76.25
September 2008	174	158	90.80
October 2008	143	131	91.61
	1,650	1,383	83.82

Departmental ICT

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what IT projects his Department is undertaking; and what estimate has been made of the cost of each such project. [234257]

Paul Goggins: The majority of IT projects are relatively small and are developed in-house with minimum cost. To compile information to support all projects would be at disproportionate cost. Therefore the information within the following table relates only to current approved IT projects which cost in excess of £1 million.

Project name	*Estimated cost (£ million)*
Causeway Programme	61
Prisoner Record Information System (PRISM)—Technical Refresh	1.3

Departmental Internet

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many visits to his Department's website have been recorded from computers outside his Department and the parliamentary estate *(a)* since May 2007 and *(b)* in the last 12 months. [234250]

Mr. Woodward: From information available the total number of visitors who visited the Northern Ireland Office website (www.nio.gov.uk), excluding those from the Northern Ireland Office, the Northern Ireland civil service and the parliamentary estate is shown in the following table.

	Number of visits
May 2007 to present	964,867
October 2007 to October 2008	634,617

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many of his Department's staff are seconded from other Government departments, broken down by department of origin. [234231]

Paul Goggins: The number of staff who are seconded from other Government Departments to the Northern Ireland Office is detailed in the following table.

Department	*Number of staff seconded*
Home Office	2
Ministry of Defence	1
Ministry of Justice	1

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many *(a)* newspaper and *(b)* television advertisements his Department funded or part-funded in the last 12 months.[1] [234168]

Mr. Woodward: In the last 12 months, the Northern Ireland Office funded 46 newspaper advertisements and one television advertisement. It also part-funded a further two television advertisements during this period.

Departmental Press Releases

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many press releases have been issued by his Department in the last 12 months. [234237]

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[1] *[Official Report, 17 December 2008, Vol. 485, c. 8MC.]*

Mr. Woodward: During the last 12 months (1 November 2007 to 31 October 2008) my Department has issued 208 press releases.

Irish Government

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with officials of the Irish government in the last 12 months. [234252]

Mr. Woodward: In the course of my duties I am in regular meetings and maintain regular contact with Ministers and officials from the Irish Government.

Northern Ireland Assembly

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly in the last 12 months. [234228]

Mr. Woodward: In the course of my duties I have regular meetings and maintain regular contact with members of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

Official Visits

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many flights he has taken on official business in the last 12 months; and what steps he has taken to offset the carbon dioxide emissions of those flights. [234166]

Mr. Woodward: As the hon. Member will be aware, to fulfil my duties as Secretary of State in Northern Ireland and fulfil Cabinet obligations, including my role on the National Economic Council, it is necessary for me to travel to and from Northern Ireland regularly and frequently, and often at short notice.

Details of foreign visits by Cabinet Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. Copies are available in the Library.

Since April 2006 emissions from central Government ministerial and official air travel has been offset through the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund. Departmental aviation emissions are calculated on an annual basis and subsequently offset through payments to the fund. The fund purchases certified emissions reduction credits from energy efficiency and renewable energy projects with sustainable development benefits, located in developing countries.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much he has spent on each mode of transportation for official visits in the last 12 months. [234167]

Mr. Woodward: Details of foreign visits by Cabinet Ministers are published annually by the Cabinet Office. Copies are available in the Library.

Expenditure on transport for each official visit within Great Britain and Northern Ireland cannot be separated from the overall costs for transport incurred in the course of my duties.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official visits he has made to *(a)* Northern Ireland and *(b)* the Republic of Ireland in the last 12 months. [234171]

Mr. Woodward: As the hon. Member will be aware, as Secretary of State for Northern Ireland my duties and meetings require me to be in Northern Ireland for a varying number of days each week. I travel to the Republic of Ireland to meet the Irish Government when necessary.

Police: Complaints

Lady Hermon: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many complaints about Police Service of Northern Ireland helicopter activity were recorded in each district command unit area in each of the last 12 months. [234764]

Paul Goggins: Dealing with such complaints is the operational responsibility of the Office of the Police Ombudsman for Northern Ireland. I have asked the chief executive to reply to the hon. Member directly, and will arrange for a copy of the letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Prisons: Construction

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what recent consultations he has had on building new prisons in Northern Ireland; [234172]

(2) what recent discussions he has had on building new prisons in Northern Ireland. [234299]

Paul Goggins: On 18 December 2007 I published the comprehensive options appraisal for the future development of the adult male estate in Northern Ireland. Since then there have been a range of contacts between the Prison Service and elected representatives. Formal consultation will take place in the next phase of the Magilligan Prison redevelopment programme.

Separately, I commissioned the development of an overall strategy for the management of women offenders and the options for the provision of a new women's custodial facility. In April a consultative conference was held at Hillsborough Castle over four days involving a wide range of providers from the statutory and voluntary sectors, principally on the overall strategy for managing women. Further discussions were also held with all female offenders, Prison Service staff and internal providers of services.

The Prison Service is currently preparing a strategic outline business case for a new women's prison. This work, in conjunction with the strategy for the management of women offenders, will be issued for public consultation shortly.

Recruitment: Religion

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what measures he has taken to recruit people from non-Christian backgrounds to his Department. [234637]

Mr. Woodward: The Department of Finance and Personnel (DFP), which is responsible for recruitment to the Northern Ireland Civil Service, also facilitates the majority of recruitment to the Northern Ireland Office.

DFP has liaised with representatives from Northern Ireland's ethnic communities to identify proactive measures to encourage more applications from these communities and remove barriers to their retention and progression within the civil service.

Religion

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with church leaders in Northern Ireland in the last 12 months, broken down by denomination. [234227]

Mr. Woodward: In the course of my duties I have regular contact with church leaders of all denominations in Northern Ireland.

Reoffenders

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what percentage of 16 to 25 year old ex-prisoners in Northern Ireland reoffended within *(a)* 12 months and *(b)* three years of release from custody in the latest period for which figures are available. [234178]

Paul Goggins: The information is as follows:

(a) During the calendar year 2005, there were 376 prisoners released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland who were aged 16 to 25 on the date they were given a custodial sentence. During the 12 months following the date of their release, 194 of these ex-prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a one year reoffending rate of 51.6 per cent.

(b) During the calendar year 2003, there were 430 prisoners released from adult or juvenile custody in Northern Ireland who were aged 16 to 25 on the date they were given a custodial sentence. During the three years following the date of their release, 303 of these ex-prisoners committed a proven offence. This represents a three year reoffending rate of 70.5 per cent.

USA

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many meetings he has had with officials of the US administration in the last 12 months. [234253]

Mr. Woodward: In the course of my duties I am in regular meetings and maintain regular contact with members of the US Administration.

Mr. Paterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how many official visits he has made to the United States of America in the last 12 months. [234640]

Mr. Woodward: The United States has played and continues to play a critical role in the political process, further progress towards the devolution of policing and justice and investment in Northern Ireland. Successive Secretaries of State have worked closely with the United States and have made regular visits to discuss policy. I continue this policy.

Details of all foreign visits undertaken by Cabinet Ministers are published by the Cabinet Office annually. Copies are available in the Library.

Young Offender Institutions: Per Capita Costs

Mr. McGrady: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what the average cost of providing a place in a young offender institution in Northern Ireland was in the latest year for which figures are available. [234410]

Paul Goggins: The Northern Ireland Prison Service currently houses the young offender population together with the female population on a single site at Hydebank Wood. There are 261 young offender places and 74 female places. Costs are not captured below establishment level and so it would be difficult and unreliable to estimate the cost of providing a place for a single young offender. The delegated annual resource budget for Hydebank Wood is £23.95 million.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Christmas functions *(a)* she, *(b)* officials from her Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if she will make a statement. [226962]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State attended five Christmas functions in 2007-08. She also hosted one Christmas function at a cost of £250. The other information requested is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Contracts

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 29 October 2008, *Official Report,* column 1139W, on departmental contracts, to which of her Department's programmes each contract relates. [233328]

Mr. Khan: Please see the following table. Not all of these contracts are related to programmes, some have been let for day to day business.

Table of consultancy contracts let by programme—year to end September 2008

Vendor name	*Programme*	*Contract value (£)*
Acumen Consortium	Community Builders	84,640
Acumen Consortium	H[illegible]MOB—Homes	9,000
Addison & Associates Ltd.	Economic Development	42,678

Table of consultancy contracts let by programme—year to end September 2008

Vendor name	*Programme*	*Contract value (£)*
Addison & Associates Ltd.	Planning Systems Improvement	56,048
Amqis Consortium	Admin	260,582
Brahm Ltd.	Admin	18,175
Business in the Community	Business in the Community	68,080
Certes Computing Ltd.	ePlanning Programme	101,375
Chartered Inst of Housing	Efficiency Improvements	86,400
Ciria	Planning Systems Improvement	49,964
Collective Enterprises Ltd.	Supporting People	2,999,648
Deloitte MCS Ltd.	Admin	30,000
Entec UK Ltd.	Fire Research	47,410
Ethnos Research & Consultancy	REACH	81,880
Europe Economics	Buildings Reg Research	154,030
Faith Matters	Faith Leaders	90,000
FDS International Ltd.	Fire Protection	47,303
Greenstreet Berman Ltd.	Fire Research	102,478
Greenstreet Berman Ltd.	Fire Prevention	72,837
Hays Personnel Services	Admin	93,000
Hays Personnel Services	Admin	93,000
Hays Personnel Services	HIP Programme	27,000
Health & Safety Laboratories	Resilience Research	99,000
Heriot-Watt University	Choice Based Lettings	88,012
Idenk Ltd.	Admin	50,000
IECR Ltd.	Small Area Data	73,370
Improvement & Development Agency	Local Partnerships & Delivery	89,000
Informed Solutions Ltd.	Information Management Programme	500,000
Intelligent Addressing Ltd.	Fire Control	20,300
Kent University	Statistics and Research Programme	88,820
Lambert Smith Hampton	Fire Control	11,300
Land Data CIC	Energy Performance Building Objective	50,000
Leeds Metropolitan University	Small Area Data	21,875
Market & Opinion Research Int. Ltd.	Small Area Data	66,510
Mott Macdonald Ltd.	Statistics Research	45,000
Nera Economic Consulting	New Dimension	73,849
Ove Arup & Partners	Planning Systems Improvement	53,575
Oxford Consult Social Inclusion Ltd.	Small Area Data	57,000
PA Consulting Services Limited	Admin	43,750
PA Consulting Services Limited	Energy Performance of Buildings Programme	127,305
PA Consulting Services Limited	Admin	82,750
Partnerships UK Plc	Homes	579,000
Progressive Recruitment Ltd.	Enhanced Local Government accrued reporting project	42,000
QI Consulting Ltd.	Firelink	107,400
Rocket Science UK Ltd.	Small Area Data	52,085
Roger Tym & Partners	Thames Gateway—Direct Funding	36,585
Scott Wilson Ltd.	Admin	78,705
Securetest Ltd.	Admin	14,000
Serco	Admin	40,814
Shared Intelligence Ltd.	Community Empowerment	23,960
Stanton Marris LLP	Admin	93,350
Sustrans	Thames Gateway—Direct Funding	39,997
Teg Kenyon Limited	ePlanning Programme	25,950
Veredus Interim Mgmt	IPC Contingency Fund	111,175
Xantura Limited	Small Area Data	89,800
Xantura Limited	Small Area Data	89,820

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from her Department in each year since its establishment. [234084]

Mr. Khan: Communities and Local Government was formed on 5 May 2006. The information as follows goes back to May 2002, and includes data for CLG's predecessor Department, the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (which was formed on 29 May 2002) and its agencies. The data requested prior to this date are not held centrally and therefore cannot be provided.

	Status	*Memory stick*	*Laptop computer*	*Desktop computer*	*Hard drive*	*Mobile telephone*
2002-03	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	2	0	0	0
2003-04	Lost	0	0	0	0	1
	Stolen	0	2	0	0	0
2004-05	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	2	0	0	0
2005-06	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	*7	0	0	0
2006-07	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	7	0	0	2
2007-08	Lost	0	0	0	0	0
	Stolen	0	9	3	0	2

Note:

This includes two x laptops from the Fire Service College and recorded as lost at the time of the answer of 13 February 2006, *Official Report*, column 1616W, to the hon. Member for Monmouth (David T.C. Davies) but subsequently reported as stolen.

The official data on each of the laptops were not encrypted, because none of the information was classified. However, each laptop was password protected.

This answer does not include Government offices for the region who carry out functions on behalf of 10 Government Departments.

Departmental Lost Property

Grant Shapps: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what *(a)* equipment and *(b)* data was lost by her Department in the last 12 months; and if she will make a statement. [231447]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government, in accordance with Cabinet Office guidance did not report any personal or other data related incidents for the period 2007-8. No equipment containing data was recorded as lost in the same period.

This response does not include the Government Office for the English Regions which carry out work for 10 Government departments.

Departmental Marketing

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding her Department and its agencies have provided in sponsorship of the House Magazine 2009 diary. [233978]

Mr. Khan: None.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many people recruited by her Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235249]

Mr. Khan: The Department for Communities and Local Government recruited 11 people over the age of 55 between 1 January 2007 and 31 October 2008 which was 5 per cent. of total new recruits. The Department has recruited seven staff over the age of 60 which was 3 per cent. of total recruits.

Departmental Training

Mr. Hands: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what personal training courses at public expense she has undertaken since her appointment. [230965]

Mr. Khan: My right hon. Friend has had foreign language training and advice on continuing professional development.

Deprivation Indicators

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* current and *(b)* previous ranking is of each of the lowest ranked lower super output areas in each field of multiple deprivation in each of the principal seaside towns in England and Wales, giving the name of each of the ward areas affected. [235546]

John Healey: A table has been deposited in the Library providing the current and previous ranking for the most deprived lower super output area on the overall measure of multiple deprivation and on each of the seven domains that make up the Index of Multiple Deprivation for each of the principal seaside towns in England.

We do not hold information on deprivation in Wales.

Fire Services

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much was spent on the fire and rescue service per 100,000 of the population in each local authority area in England and Wales in the last 12 months. [234105]

Mr. Khan: Provisional outturn net current expenditure in 2007-08 on the fire and rescue services per 100,000 of the population in each local authority in England is given in the following table. Fire and rescue services in Wales are the responsibility of the Welsh Assembly Government.

	£000 per 100,000 population
Greater London Authority	5,849
Greater Manchester Fire and CD Authority	4,248
Merseyside Fire and CD Authority	5,226
South Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	4,546
Tyne and Wear Fire and CD Authority	5,252
West Midlands Fire and CD Authority	4,571
West Yorkshire Fire and CD Authority	3,843
Avon Combined Fire Authority	3,154
Bedfordshire Combined Fire Authority	4,191
Berkshire Combined Fire Authority	3,907
Buckinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	3,923
Cambridgeshire Combined Fire Authority	3,041
Cheshire Combined Fire Authority	3,539
Cleveland Combined Fire Authority	5,887
Derbyshire Combined Fire Authority	3,449
Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority	4,065
Dorset Combined Fire Authority	3,337
Durham Combined Fire Authority	4,825
East Sussex Combined Fire Authority	4,779
Essex Combined Fire Authority	4,080
Hampshire Combined Fire Authority	3,645
Hereford & Worcester Combined Fire Authority	3,974
Humberside Combined Fire Authority	6,619
Kent Combined Fire Authority	4,310
Lancashire Combined Fire Authority	4,151
Leicestershire Combined Fire Authority	3,181
North Yorkshire Combined Fire Authority	3,899
Nottinghamshire Combined Fire Authority	3,100
Shropshire Combined Fire Authority	4,054
Staffordshire Combined Fire Authority	3,659
Wiltshire Combined Fire Authority	3,634
County councils	
Cornwall	3,737
Cumbria	3,930
Gloucestershire	3,601
Hertfordshire	3,754
Lincolnshire	4,102
Norfolk	3,763
Northamptonshire	3,425
Northumberland	5,370
Oxfordshire	3,709
Somerset[1]	133
Suffolk	3,203
Surrey	4,012
Warwickshire	4,336
West Sussex	4,341
Isles of Scilly	15,667
Unitary authority	
Isle of Wight UA	5,124

1. Fire and rescue responsibility was transferred from Somerset County council to Devon and Somerset Combined Fire Authority on 1 April 2007.
Sources: Communities and Local Government provisional Revenue Outturn (RO) returns.
Population figures used in the calculation are the Office for National Statistics' (ONS) Mid-Year Population estimates for 2007.

The current expenditure defined here is the cost of running local authority services within the financial year. This includes the costs of staffing, heating, lighting and cleaning, together with expenditure on goods and services consumed within the year. This expenditure is offset by income from sales, fees and charges and other (non-grant) income, to give net current expenditure.

Government Office Transformation Board

Julia Goldsworthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what projects are being carried out by the Government Office Transformation Board, as referred to on page 16 of her Department's Annual Report 2008; and what the budget is of each project. [234300]

Mr. Khan: The Government Office network established a transformational change programme to implement the recommendations of the Government Office review which was commissioned by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister and HM Treasury and published in March 2006. The projects in the programme are set out as follows:

Business Operating Model: identifying the most effective operating model to deliver the new roles identified in the review;

Regional Governance: establishing effective mechanisms within the network to support the new Regional Select Committees, Council of Regional Ministers and Regional Economic Council;

European Structural Fund Programmes: to deliver effective closure of the 2000-06 European regional development fund (ERDF) and European social fund (ESF) programmes and implement the GO role on the programmes which commenced in 2007;

Transformation of Communications: to identify and implement a highly professional and effective communications function across the network;

People Strategy and Culture: identifying and implementing the human resources processes, skills and behaviours required to support the new GO network roles;

Analytical and Delivery Capability: defining and implementing the capabilities required to enable the network to deliver its new roles; and

Influencing Whitehall: strengthening the skills and processes across the network to enable it to engage effectively in policy development and evaluation.

Budgets have not been allocated to each project. I would refer the hon. Member for Falmouth and Camborne to my answer on 29 October 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1134-35W, which states that the regional co-ordination unit of the Government Office network has a local budget of £288,500 for 2008-09 for planned projects within the programme. Other costs are borne from within individual Government Office and regional co-ordination unit resource allocations.

Liverpool Corporation Act 1902

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations she has received on the operation of the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902 in relation to the *(a)* status and *(b)* proposed sale in part of Lever Park, Chorley. [233003]

Mr. Khan *[holding answer 4 November 2008]*: I understand one letter of representation has been received. A response was sent on behalf of the Secretary of State on 3 October 2008.

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what functions of the former Local Government Board her Department exercises for the purposes of determining disputes under section 21 of the Liverpool Corporation Act 1902; and if she will make a statement. [233053]

Mr. Khan: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him today (PQ 233001).

Local Authorities: Land

Mr. Hoyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which of the functions of the former Local Government Board are exercised by her Department in respect of the determination of disputes between *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* owners of land vested in those authorities. [233001]

Mr. Khan: The functions of the Local Government Board, which were transferred to Ministers by the Ministry of Health Act 1919, are currently exercisable by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (save for some health functions and functions applicable to Wales).

Local Government: Labour Turnover

Mr. Cameron: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate she has made of the number of local government workers who left their employment with between two and five years experience in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008 to date. [234633]

Hazel Blears: The information is not collected centrally.

Mayor of London

Mr. Pickles: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many meetings Ministers in her Department have had with the Mayor of London since his election. [230894]

Mr. Khan: Ministers in this Department have met the new Mayor of London five times since his election.

Non-Domestic Rates: Ports

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on non-domestic rates: ports, with which port tenants *(a)* she and *(b)* her officials have had discussions since May 2006. [235126]

John Healey: There have been a range of meetings which some port operators and tenants have attended. There have also been a number of representations from port operators, port occupiers, local authorities and hon. Members. We are urgently exploring options for mitigating the financial impact on businesses facing immediate payment of significant backdated liabilities.

Mr. Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 15 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1410W, on non-domestic rates: ports, *(a)* which port operators and *(b)* how many port tenants were advised of the review of ports in May 2006. [235127]

John Healey: The letter from the Valuation Office in May 2006 regarding the review of ports was sent to the operators of the 55 large statutory ports and container terminals in England and Wales, requesting details of the occupiers. The port occupiers were then individually contacted once their identity and the need to review their particular circumstances was established.

Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many staff in her Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235229]

Mr. Khan: For the performance management review round 2007-08, 12 staff (across all grades) did not receive an acceptable performance assessment grade.

Planning Permission

Mr. Greg Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many cases related to planning disputes were referred to the Local Government Ombudsman in *(a)* 2005, *(b)* 2006 and *(c)* 2007. [234313]

John Healey: The local government ombudsmen publish their statistics in financial years (April to March). The number of planning complaints received by the local government ombudsmen in the years requested are as follows:

	Number
(a) 2005-06	4,407
(b) 2006-07	4,215
(c) 2007-08	3,836

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many Questions for written answer were tabled to her Department and its predecessors in Session *(a)* 2002-03, *(b)* 2003-04, *(c)* 2004-05, *(d)* 2005-06, *(e)* 2006-07 and *(f)* 2007-08 to date; and how many were (i) answered substantively and (ii) not answered on grounds of disproportionate cost. [235398]

Mr. Khan: The number of written parliamentary questions received in each parliamentary session since 2002-03 by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) and its predecessor Department the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) is tabled as follows:

Session	*Total number of written parliamentary questions*
2002-03	2,822
2003-04	3,142
2004-05	1,333
2005-06	[1]6,057
2006-07	[2]4,055
2007-08	[3]5,122

[1] Includes questions tabled to the ODPM prior to 5 May 2006 and questions tabled to the DCLG and the Minister for Women and Equality from 5 May 2006 to 8 November 2006.

[2] Includes questions tabled to the DCLG and the Minister for Women and Equality for the period 15 November 2006 to 30 June 2007 and for the DCLG only in the period 1 July 2007 to 30 October 2007.

[3] Up to 11 November 2008.

Information on how many questions received a substantive answer or were not answered on disproportionate cost grounds is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Nuclear Energy

5. **Mr. Hendrick:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the use of nuclear energy. [235271]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Nuclear power currently provides around 15 per cent. of our electricity.

New nuclear power stations are an essential part of the energy mix needed to hit climate change targets and provide secure and affordable generation.

Clean Coal

6. **Mr. David Anderson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps he is taking to promote the development of clean coal technology. [235273]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Government are promoting clean coal technology by:

Support for technology advancement—including for one of the world's first commercial scale demonstrations of the full chain of carbon, capture and storage, demonstration of a 40 MW Oxyfuel combustion system, and increasing research and development activity across a range of clean coal technologies.

We are also setting the legislative framework by for example legislating for the storage of CO_2 and developing policies to back the widespread deployment of CCS.

Kyoto Protocol

7. **John Robertson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Kyoto Protocol in driving reductions in emissions of greenhouse gases; and if he will make a statement. [235274]

Edward Miliband: The Kyoto protocol has helped drive reductions in emissions in a number of countries, but if the world is to stop dangerous climate change, we need a more comprehensive agreement, covering all countries with deeper cuts in emissions. That is what we are working towards in Copenhagen in December 2009 and Britain is determined to play its part, through our actions at home and our work internationally to secure agreement.

Fuel Poverty: North-West Leicestershire

9. **David Taylor:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the number of people living in fuel poverty in North West Leicestershire; and if he will make a statement. [235276]

Joan Ruddock: The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2003 and shows that in north-west Leicestershire there were around 2,300 fuel poor households. At that time, there were around two million households living in fuel poverty in the UK.

Carbon Capture and Storage

10. **Paddy Tipping:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the timetable is for awarding the contract for the carbon capture and storage demonstration plant; and if he will make a statement. [235277]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: We aim to move to the next stage of the competition by the end of the year. The timetable published when the competition was launched suggested on a provisional basis that a Preferred Bidder would be selected in the mid part of next year. We are working towards an operational project in 2014.

Gas Storage

11. **Mr. Mackay:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the current capacity of UK gas storage facilities is; and if he will make a statement. [235278]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The UK currently has 4.4 billion cubic metres of working storage capacity, with an additional 420 million cubic meters of capacity expected to commission in 2008-09. Potential future projects (under construction or proposed) amount to some 15 billion cubic meters. The Government are encouraging investment in gas storage through reforms to the planning and consents framework in the Planning and Energy Bills, now before the House.

Meat and Dairy Consumption

12. **Kerry McCarthy:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with colleagues in the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation's assessment of the effects of meat and dairy consumption on greenhouse gas emissions and global warming. [235279]

Joan Ruddock: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I continue to work closely with DEFRA and international organisations to establish the extent to which all points in the meat production chain contribute to greenhouse gas emissions.

Nuclear Generation

13. **Jim Sheridan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent representations he has received on the construction of nuclear power facilities and electricity generation by such facilities; and if he will make a statement. [235281]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The siting of new nuclear power stations is subject to the strategic siting assessment criteria and process. Energy companies will fail to receive substantial investment in new nuclear power stations in Scotland while the Scottish Executive upholds its current policy to oppose new build in Scotland. Both current jobs and long-term employment potential is affected by this decision.

Energy Market: Ofgem Report

14. **Tony Lloyd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on Ofgem's recent report on the energy market. [235282]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has had discussions with ministerial colleagues on many issues, including on Ofgem's initial findings and proposals from its probe into the energy markets.

Customer Supply

15. **Mr. Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what mechanisms are in place to ensure the continuation of supply to a customer in circumstances where an energy company fails. [235283]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem licences for suppliers who sell gas or electricity directly to consumers include arrangements that allow Ofgem to appoint a "supplier of last resort", thus enabling continuity of supply if a company fails. They allow Ofgem to direct another supplier to take on the contracts of the failed supplier and thereby enable continuity of supply to consumers. This is what happened in the recent case where E4B went into administration.

Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study

16. **Mr. Drew:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what progress has been made on the Severn Tidal Power Feasibility Study; and if he will make a statement. [235284]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: The Feasibility Study was announced in September 2007 and the terms of reference were published in January 2008. Contracts were let to undertake a Strategic Environmental Assessment, and to provide advice on technical and engineering issues, on potential project ownership structure and financing, and on regional economic and energy market impacts. Following input from stakeholders, the feasibility study published a list of 10 potential schemes in July this year and has been assessing in broad terms the costs, benefits and impacts of the long list of potential schemes. This work will feed into an internal review, which will take place at the end of this year. Subject to that review, we will launch in the new year a public consultation to invite views on the scope of the strategic environmental assessment and on which of the 10 proposals will be short-listed for more detailed assessment in 2009. Advisory and scoping reports produced for the feasibility study will be published with the consultation paper.

Energy Efficiency

17. **Miss McIntosh:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what schemes the Government operates to promote energy efficiency; and if he will make a statement. [235285]

Joan Ruddock: The Government have put in place a comprehensive framework of policies and measures to promote energy efficiency across all sectors of the economy, including the recent announcement by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister of a new £1 billion package of measures to deliver lasting improvements in energy efficiency to help families permanently cut their energy bills.

Community Energy Saving Schemes

18. **Mr. Grogan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of community energy saving schemes; and if he will make a statement. [235286]

Joan Ruddock: In 2001, a three-year Government sponsored pilot project was launched to reduce fuel poverty on a local area basis. An evaluation of the pilot highlighted actions required for the area-based approach to be successful. The pilot evolved into the Warm Zones initiative which has continued across some areas, with the original concept being extended to include broader energy efficiency activity. The Community Energy Efficiency Fund built on these experiences and in September 2007 funded 49 individual projects across the country. A full evaluation will be undertaken in the future to see the impact these projects have had.

We are currently discussing the Community Energy Savings Programme with stakeholders and will consult on the detail of the programme in due course.

Energy: EC Action

Gregory Barker: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent meetings Ministers and officials from his Department have held with the Government of Sweden to discuss the energy and climate change priorities of the Swedish Presidency of the European Union. [231593]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: There have been no meetings between Department of Energy and Climate Change Ministers or officials and the Government of Sweden to discuss these issues since the Department of Energy and Climate Change was established on 3 October.

Industrial Diseases: Compensation

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what average length of time coalminers in Scotland with outstanding compensation claims have been waiting to receive their payments. [233601]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The following table provides the average time from receipt of claim to date for those claims from Scotland not yet settled under the chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) and vibration white finger (VWF) schemes:

Policy	*Outstanding claims*	*Average months outstanding*
COPD	7,107	65
VWF	107	91

The Department continues to seek to resolve outstanding claims as quickly and fairly as possible consistent with the requirements of the claims handling arrangements for each scheme. We expect remaining VWF cases to be completed in early 2009 and the majority of COPD cases to be settled by autumn 2009.

Jeddah Oil Conference

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what date has been set for the London follow-up to the Jeddah oil conference; [234400]

(2) what plans he has made for the London follow-up to the Jeddah oil conference; and if he will make a statement. [234404]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: The London Energy Meeting, which follows up the Jeddah Meeting held in June this year, is scheduled for 19 December.

OFGEM: Finance

David Taylor: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the budget is for Ofgem's regulatory activities in each of the next three financial years. [232697]

Mr. Mike O'Brien: Ofgem's budget for the next three years is:

	£ million
2009-10	35.4
2010-11	35.8
2011-12	36.7

Renewable Energy

Greg Clark: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to publish the responses to the Government's consultation on a new renewable energy strategy. [234402]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: We expect to publish the responses to the Renewable Energy Strategy consultation early in the new year.

JUSTICE

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234697]

Mr. Wills: Airwave handsets are currently used in a limited number of areas within Her Majesty's Prison Service. There are no current plans to extend the use of the Airwave Service to other areas of the Ministry of Justice.

Community Orders: Enforcement

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance is issued to local probation services for the implementation and enforcement of community orders. [234876]

Mr. Hanson: It is important that community orders are enforced and it remains a key priority for Government. Guidance is issued to probation services for the implementation and enforcement of community orders through the publication of national standards and through the publication of periodic and specialist guidance in probation circulars. The most recent update for the management of offenders was published in 2007 and issued to all probation areas. This outlines the actions and time scales to be applied to the implementation and enforcement of community orders.

Departmental Manpower

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what projections his Department has made of reductions in staff numbers owing to *(a)* natural wastage, *(b)* early retirement, *(c)* voluntary redundancy and *(d)* compulsory redundancy by 2011 for the purposes of his Department's plans for the Comprehensive Spending Review; how many agency staff and contractors his Department retains at present; and how many he expects to retain in 2011. [233689]

Maria Eagle: The 2007 Comprehensive Spending Review required us to reduce our spending by over £1 billion by 2011. We are working hard to develop robust plans to streamline our business, cutting out unnecessary overheads and non-essential projects to remove duplication of effort and increase efficiency. The Department is currently conducting the necessary due diligence on its initial scoping work and we cannot yet provide accurate information on workforce projections. However, our approach to the use of agency staff and contractors will be to limit their use to essential tasks only and where it is cost effective for the Department to employ them, rather than permanent members of staff.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what provision for restructuring has been made in his Department's financial plan for the 2008-11 Comprehensive Spending Review. [233750]

Maria Eagle: The MoJ settlement received in the last Comprehensive Spending Review meant that the MoJ would have to absorb cost of living increases and other upward pressures equivalent to approximately £1 billion over the three year period. Ministers and the Management Board have been working to put in place plans to achieve the savings which are necessary. In doing this, our overall approach has been to capitalise on the synergies and the opportunities created by the merger of two large parts of Government to form the MoJ. We intend to do so in particular through increasing efficiency, removal of duplication and new ways of working while continuing to prioritise the delivery of effective frontline services.

Housing: Sales

Bob Spink: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will make it his policy to collect and publish data on the number of forced sales of people's homes approved by the courts; and if he will make a statement. [235644]

Bridget Prentice: Court staff record information about orders for sale onto the main administrative systems in the county courts as part of their routine daily administrative duties. However, the orders for sale are recorded using a general order field and as such are not identifiable from other orders made. Changing the administrative systems to create a specific 'order for sale' event would incur prohibitive costs.

Land Registry

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to ensure that the Land Registry launches a proper public consultation before the destruction of any original documents and deeds. [234789]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has no plans to conduct further public consultation before it proceeds with the planned destruction of the documents referred to in my previous answers on 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1300W, and 6 November 2008, *Official Report*, column 749W. As previously stated Land Registry conducted comprehensive consultation during development of the current legislation over five years ago and published the changes prior to implementation of the revised rules in 2003.

Land Registry will further publicise its actions through a press release, a notice on its website and a notice to key stakeholders. Land Registry will not destroy any documents connected with applications held on 13 October 2003 until three months after the issuing of this additional publicity.

Mr. Bellingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Land Registry has spent on consulting the public on its plans to destroy original deeds and documents in the last two years. [234790]

Mr. Wills: Land Registry has not completed any dedicated consultation exercises on its plans to destroy original deeds and documents within the last two years. Consultation relating to this area was conducted as part of a wider exercise prior to the introduction of the revised Land Registration Rules in 2003.

National Offender Management Service: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when the new National Offender Management Service drug strategy will be published. [234552]

Mr. Hanson: The Government plan to publish the new National Offender Management Service drug strategy before the end of 2008 and will place a copy in the Library of the House.

National Offender Management Service: Recruitment

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps he is taking to ensure that all grades of staff in the National Offender Management service have a balanced representation drawn from the prison and probation services. [235053]

Mr. Hanson: Posts in the National Offender Management Service Agency must be filled in line with Cabinet Office rules for filling appointments.

As the Agency is responsible for Prison and National Probation Services delivery it is important that there is representation from both services at all levels. The Agency's Director General is responsible for ensuring that appropriate knowledge and expertise is in place across all grades of staff.

Offenders

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the throughput of offenders on accredited programmes *(a)* in custody and *(b)* in the community in 2007-08 was; [235054]

(2) what the completion rates for accredited programmes taken by offenders *(a)* in custody and *(b)* in the community were in 2007-08; and what the targets for completion were; [235055]

(3) what targets he has set for completion of accredited programmes *(a)* in custody and *(b)* in the community in 2008-09. [235056]

Mr. Hanson: The requested information is contained in the following tables.

Throughput of offenders on accredited programmes in 2007-08

2007-08	*Throughput*
(a) Custody	[1]20,253
(b) Community	[2]25,336

[1] The number of offenders who completed or failed to complete an accredited programme in custody.

[2] The number of offenders who commenced an accredited programme in the community.

Completion targets and completions for accredited programmes in 2007-08

2007-08	*Target*	*Completions*
(a) Custody	14,567	16,768
(b) Community	17,349	18,451

Completion targets for accredited programmes in 2008-09

2008-09	*Completion target*
(a) Custody	14,970
(b) Community	16,191

These figures have been drawn from administrative data systems. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system.

Mr. Gerrard: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for what reason offenders on community supervision experience the end-to-end offender management established through the Gate Practices and Protocols. [235057]

Mr. Malik: The Offender Management model ensures a high level of consistency throughout an offender's whole sentence, both in custody and under supervision in the community. This supports continuity of progress in achievement of the aims of the court both for sentences with a custodial element and those without.

Office of the Public Guardian

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* complaints and *(b)* other representations he has received on the operation of the Office of the Public Guardian from (i) members of the public and (ii) solicitors in the last 12 months. [235540]

Bridget Prentice: Since the creation of the Office of the Public Guardian on 1 October 2007 215 complaints or other representations on the operation of the Office of the Public Guardian have been received at ministerial level. Of these 199 were received from members of the public, or through their Member of Parliament, and 16 were received from solicitors.

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Office of the Public Guardian in offering services to members of the public. [235541]

Bridget Prentice: During July and August the OPG cleared a backlog of applications due to exceptionally high volume and by the end of August was dealing with all new applications within the expected end-to-end target of nine weeks (including the statutory six week waiting period) as per its published service standards.

The backlog of applications processed in July and August reached the final stage of the registration process throughout September and early October. During this period, the final stage of the process—notifying customers their LPA had been registered—slipped slightly to take up to two weeks instead of the one week target. However, since mid-October all such notifications have been issued within the one week target and the end- to-end process is again back within the nine week target.

We continue to monitor volumes in this area of work closely as they continue to remain high and are actively looking at ways to build additional contingency within the system to accommodate any further increases in volumes.

Prisons: Drugs

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisons in England and Wales have implemented the integrated drug treatment system. [234551]

Mr. Hanson: As at 1 September 2008, of the 53 prisons in the first and second waves of Integrated Drug Treatment System (IDTS), 49 were assessed as delivering an operational service providing all key elements of IDTS clinical services.

Rape: Compensation

Mr. Burrowes: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 28 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 717W, on the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority, what guidance is in place on the payment of compensation to victims of rape by the Criminal Injuries Compensation Authority. [234584]

Maria Eagle: The payment of compensation to victims of all violent crime is governed by the provisions of the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008. Guidance on the payment of compensation to victims of all types of violent crime is contained in the booklet "A Guide to the Criminal Injuries Compensation Scheme 2008", which is available to all applicants on request. Further guidance is also available on CICA's website:

www.cica.gov.uk

Those applications received before 3 November 2008 will be considered under the 2001 scheme and its accompanying guidance.

Vandalism: Hertfordshire

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in Hemel Hempstead were given *(a)* immediate fines, *(b)* compensation orders and *(c)* cautions for acts of vandalism in each of the last five years. [234574]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of persons issued with *(a)* penalty notices for disorder or 'on the spot' fines for criminal damage amounting to less than £500, which includes acts of vandalism, in Hertfordshire in the last three years are set out in the following table. The offence of criminal damage was added to the PND scheme in November 2004

The court proceedings and cautions data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not enable offences involving vandalism to be separately identified from other acts of "Criminal Damage".

It is not possible to further break down data to constituency level (i.e. Hemel Hempstead) as this level of detail is not held centrally.

Penalty notices for disorder data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Criminal Damage (under £500) in Hertfordshire police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]
2004	12
2005	148

Number of persons aged 16 and over issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence Criminal Damage (under £500) in Hertfordshire police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]
2006	751

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures.

[3] Penalty notices for disorder came into force in November 2004.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Vandalism: Suffolk

Mr. Spring: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people in Suffolk have been given *(a)* immediate fines, *(b)* compensation orders and (c) cautions for acts of vandalism in each of the last five years; [233494]

(2) how many people in Suffolk have been given *(a)* immediate fines, *(b)* compensation orders and *(c)* cautions for acts of violent crime in each of the last five years. [233495]

Maria Eagle: Data on the number of persons issued with *(a)* penalty notices for disorder or 'on the spot' fines for criminal damage amounting to less than £500, which includes acts of vandalism, in Suffolk in the last three years are set out in table 1. The offence of criminal damage was added to the PND scheme in November 2004.

The court proceedings and cautions data held by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform do not enable offences involving vandalism to be separately identified, from other acts of "Criminal Damage".

Data on the number of persons issued with a *(b)* compensation order *(c)* caution for violence against the person in Suffolk in the least five years can be viewed in tables 2 and 3 respectively. Violence against the person offence data are the measure used by the Office for Criminal Justice Reform to represent violent crime.

Penalty notices for disorder are not available for offences involving violence.

These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the following tables relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When an offender is dealt with more than one offence at the same time, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed, then the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Court proceedings and cautions data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

Table 1: Number of persons aged 16 and over, issued with a penalty notice for disorder for the offence criminal damage (under £500), in Suffolk police force area, 2004 to 2006[1, 2, 3]*—offence code DA11*

	Criminal Damage (under £500)[2]
2004	14
2005	91
2006	140

[1] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[2] Offence is a notifiable offence included within OBTJ figures.

[3] Penalty notices for disorder came into force in November 2004.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform

Table 2: Number of persons sentenced at all courts with a compensation order for offences relating to violence against the person in Suffolk police force area, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Compensation orders
2002	113
2003	133
2004	124
2005	154
2006	165

[1] These data are on the principal offence basis.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Source:

Court proceedings data held by Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Table 3: Number of persons issued with a caution for violence against the person, in Suffolk police force area, 2002 to 2006[1, 2, 3]

	Violence against the person
2002	492
2003	653
2004	700
2005	811
2006	919

[1] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and final warnings. These figures have been included in the totals.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[3] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.

Source:

Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Evidence and Analysis Unit

Young Offenders: Remand in Custody

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* 15, *(b)* 16 and *(c)* 17 year olds were on remand in each police force area in each year since 1997; and how many went on to serve a prison sentence. [234448]

Mr. Hanson: The number of 15 to 17-year-olds held on remand (incorporating untried and convicted unsentenced) in all prison establishments in England and Wales since 1997 can be found in the following table. A breakdown by police force area is not available.

	1997	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
Males and females on remand											
Aged 15	74	86	44	51	48	59	37	52	52	59	63
Aged 16	171	183	155	114	98	154	121	118	121	134	133
Aged 17	561	508	513	409	312	305	314	340	313	380	348
Males on remand											
Aged 15	74	86	44	51	48	59	37	52	52	59	63
Aged 16	171	183	155	114	98	154	121	117	121	134	133
Aged 17	543	491	494	389	287	293	294	322	298	361	329
Females on remond											
Aged 15	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aged 16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Aged 17	8	17	19	20	25	12	20	19	15	19	19

The following table gives the percentage of prisoners of all ages held on remand[1] where the outcome of the court proceeding was an immediate custodial sentence. This information is not available for 15 to 17-year-olds separately, and the 2007 data are not yet available.

[1] Includes persons remanded in custody by magistrates during proceedings or on committal.

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*
Immediate custody (percentage)							
Male	48	51	50	49	42	53	54
Female	36	42	41	40	41	43	45

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Young Offenders: Reoffenders

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persistent young offenders are registered; how many offences have been recorded where the offender was a persistent young offender in each year since 1997; and what percentage of total offences in each police force area in England and Wales this represents. [234449]

Mr. Hanson: Statistics relating to Persistent Young Offenders (PYOs) are designed to measure the speed and efficiency of the youth justice system; through monitoring the pledge to halve the average time from arrest to sentence for dealing with PYOs in England and Wales from 142 days in 1996 to 71 days.

They are not designed to measure overall trends in youth crime, and will give a significantly misleading picture of the true trend if used for this purpose.

This is because the definition of a PYO relies on there being multiple sentencing occasions for a single offender during a limited time period. Young offenders are now being dealt with twice as quickly as they were prior to 1997, which means that there are much shorter intervals between sentencing occasions for those youths who repeatedly offend. Youth sentencing is therefore more timely, and for repeat offenders more frequent, than it used to be prior to 1997. Therefore, a side-effect of the Government's success in bringing much swifter justice to young repeat offenders is that more of them end up being defined as PYOs.

There were 15,945 PYOs registered over the last 12 months for which finalised figures are available (September 2007-August 2008). In answer to the remainder of the question, I refer the hon. Member to my reply on 22 July 2008, *Official Report*, columns 1378-86W.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prosecutions

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been prosecuted for selling alcohol to an intoxicated person since the Licensing Act 2003 was implemented. [234959]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 4 June 2008, *Official Report*, column 1044W.

Alcoholic Drinks: Public Places

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people have been fined for refusing *(a)* to surrender alcohol in a public place and *(b)* a police officer's order to stop drinking in the last 12 months. [234960]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given on 29 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 325W.

Crime Prevention

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government have taken to encourage the development of innovative technology to prevent crime; and what steps it intends to take. [234890]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office Scientific Development Branch works to develop innovative scientific and technological responses to help in the prevention and detection of crime, collaborating with industry and academia. The Home Office also recently announced a three year contract with the Design Council to deliver a programme of work to stimulate innovation in industry to design out crime.

Crimes Against Humanity: Entry Clearances

Mr. Crabb: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Buckingham of 14 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1072W, on crimes against humanity, how many of the people whose cases were investigated were refused entry into the UK *(a)* as a result of the investigation and *(b)* for other reasons. [234914]

Mr. Woolas: The UK Border Agency War Crimes Team does not collate statistics that relate solely to crimes against humanity. 16 per cent. of cases referred to the War Crimes Team in the last four years have resulted in recommendations for further immigration action. The role of the team is to make inquiries and recommendations for further action on cases referred to it from teams across the Agency. Between 2004 and October 2008 the War Crimes Team has been notified of 138 adverse decisions made following their recommendations. This will include decisions to refuse entry, indefinite leave to remain and naturalisation, and exclusions from refugee protection. It is not possible to break this down further into separate decision categories without incurring disproportionate costs.

These figures are not provided under National Statistics protocols and have been derived from local management information and are therefore provisional and subject to change.

Departmental ICT

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 17 September 2008, *Official Report*, column 2256W, on departmental ICT, what the *(a)* contents and *(b)* security classifications were of the lost and stolen laptops. [225537]

Mr. Woolas: We are unable to obtain the information because to do so would incur disproportionate costs.

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on upgrading its IT in each of the last three financial years. [228423]

Mr. Woolas: Upgrading of the Home Office IT systems is an integral part of the contracts we hold with our IT providers and is not costed separately, hence it is not feasible to provide a total budget figure.

Deportation: Democratic Republic of Congo

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the Government's policy is on removing failed asylum seekers to the Democratic Republic of Congo. [235115]

Mr. Woolas: The Asylum and Immigration Tribunal (AIT) found in a determination dated 18 December 2007 that failed asylum seekers are not at risk of persecution or ill-treatment on return to the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). On 23 April 2008, the appellant was granted permission to appeal the AIT determination to the Court of Appeal.

We firmly believe that the AIT's determination is correct and that there is no risk in enforcing the return of failed asylum seekers to the DRC. However, after careful consideration of all relevant factors, we have decided to temporarily defer all enforced removals of failed asylum seekers to the DRC until the Court of Appeal have handed down their judgment.

Once the Courts have settled their decision on the safety of DRC for failed asylum seekers, we will reconsider our position on enforced returns.

Deportation: Somalia

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the removal of unsuccessful asylum seekers to Somalia. [234956]

Mr. Woolas: All asylum claims, including those from Somali nationals, are carefully considered on their individual merits in accordance with the 1951 United Nations Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees and the European Convention on Human Rights against the background of the latest country information and relevant caselaw.

The UK Border Agency will only enforce the return of individuals who they, and the courts, are satisfied are not in need of international protection and who do not elect to leave voluntarily.

Dispersal Orders

Mr. Vara: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many dispersal orders were issued by each police force in each year since the introduction of such orders. [235707]

Mr. Alan Campbell: 1,065 areas were designated under section 30 of the Antisocial Behaviour Act 2003 between 1 January 2004 and 31 March 2006 and this information broken down by police force area is enclosed in the following table. Information on the number of designated areas for the period 1 April 2006 to 31 March 2008 will be published shortly.

Force	*Number of areas designated (January 2004 to March 2006)*
Avon and Somerset	30
Bedfordshire	29
Cambridgeshire	31
Cheshire	1
City of London	[1]—

Force	*Number of areas designated (January 2004 to March 2006)*
Cleveland	30
Cumbria	2
Derbyshire	22
Devon and Cornwall	49
Dorset	31
Durham	2
Dyfed Powys	[1]—
Essex	24
Gloucestershire	1
Greater Manchester	45
Gwent	6
Hampshire	69
Hertfordshire	20
Humberside	15
Kent	73
Lancashire	18
Leicestershire	30
Lincolnshire	4
Merseyside	70
Metropolitan Police	[2]—
Norfolk	18
North Wales	16
North Yorkshire	6
Northamptonshire	67
Northumbria	3
Nottinghamshire	40
South Wales	2
South Yorkshire	16
Staffordshire	30
Suffolk	5
Surrey	33
Sussex	35
Thames Valley	6
Warwickshire	22
West Midlands	123
West Yorkshire	22
West Mercia	[2]—
Wiltshire	19
Total	1,065

[1] No areas designated

[2] No data provided.

Drug Seizures

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what consideration she has given to publishing information on drugs seizures below the national level. [232905]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The Home Office does currently collect and publish information on drug seizures below the national level. For information, the latest bulletin Seizures of Drugs in England and Wales, 2006-07 was published on 30 October 2008. Alongside this publication, additional tables were published which include data specific to police force area and Government office region. The publication and the tables are available at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/drug-seizures.html

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many seizures of *(a)* methamphetamine, *(b)* cannabis and *(c)* heroin have been made by (i) police and (ii) HM Customs in each year since 1997; and what quantity was seized in each year. [234484]

Mr. Alan Campbell: The available data are given in the following table.

Seizures for methamphetamine are included within the classification 'Other Class A' (injection) and 'Other Class B' (non-injection) in publications. These seizures cannot be extracted from these classifications prior to the most recently published year, 2006-07.

Table 1: Number and quantity[1] of seizures made by Police and HM Revenue and Customs, by drug type and year: England and Wales

	Number and quantity of seizures									
Drug type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006-07[2]*
Police Forces										
Numbers										
Heroin	10,444	12,593	12,644	12,971	14,517	12,543	10,460	10,980	13,243	13,141
Cannabis	73,450	86,540	92,210	78,350	73,220	74,250	79,600	74,613	111,212	133,195
Methamphetamine[3](kg)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	49
Quantities										
Heroin (kg)	421	319	1,292	1,946	2,682	1,595	1,038	1,131	770	473
Cannabis (kg)	68,978	13,856	12,377	36,754	27,194	12,480	41,770	24,465	27,950	5,036
Cannabis plants	77,573	70,017	53,058	45,462	67,679	52,118	80,498	88,674	208,357	344,360
Methamphetamine[3](kg)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	235
HM Revenue and Customs										
Numbers										
Heroin	59	83	84	170	112	89	109	94	88	64
Cannabis	858	1,019	1,707	3,285	3,310	3,977	3,152	2,869	2,990	3,932
Methamphetamine[3](kg)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	5

Table 1: Number and quantity[1] of seizures made by Police and HM Revenue and Customs, by drug type and year: England and Wales

	Number and quantity of seizures									
Drug type	*1997*	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006-07*[2]
Quantities										
Heroin (kg)	1418	138	148	1,383	1,314	1,020	1,619	978	1,094	530
Cannabis (kg)	2,955	5,751	16,825	35,302	62,737	63,807	56,776	58,982	41,660	40,364
Cannabis plants	—	—	—	—	16	21	—	—	—	—
Methamphetamine[3] (kg)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0.1

[1] Drugs can be seized in a variety of forms or preparation types. In this table, quantities of drugs have been converted to weights (kg) or plants. In order to convert seizures to comparable units, conversion factors are applied to estimate the overall quantity for that drug. New conversion factors were introduced in 2005, in consultation with the Forensic Science Service.

[2] Reporting of drug seizures have been moved to a financial year basis from 2006-07 to be comparable with other crime publications

[3] Seizures of methamphetamine are included in Other Class A (injection) or Other Class B (non-injection) in published tables. Methamphetamine seizures cannot be extracted from these classifications prior to 2006-07.

Drugs: Crime

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many and what percentage of those accused of *(a)* possession of and *(b)* dealing in cannabis were (i) found not guilty, (ii) fined and (iii) imprisoned in each year since 2006. [234485]

Mr. Alan Campbell: Data showing the number of defendants proceeded against, found not guilty, fined and imprisoned (and respective percentage rates of the number proceeded against) for possession and dealing in cannabis in England and Wales 1997 to 2006 are in the following table.

Information on the number accused is not held by my Department, proceeded against data have been supplied in lieu.

Data for 2007 will be available at the end of November 2008.

The statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found not guilty, fined and imprisoned at all courts for possession and dealing[1] in cannabis, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2, 3]

		Found not guilty		*Fined*		*Immediate custody*	
	Proceeded against	*Number*	*Percentage of those proceeded against*	*Number*	*Percentage of those proceeded against*	*Number*	*Percentage of those proceeded against*
1997							
Possession of cannabis	18,940	1,665	9	11,890	63	268	1
Dealing in cannabis	5,063	1,150	23	357	7	1,779	35
1998							
Possession of cannabis	24,395	1,752	7	15,503	64	410	2
Dealing in cannabis	5,053	963	19	399	8	1,940	38
1999							
Possession of cannabis	24,322	1,699	7	15,215	63	451	2
Dealing in cannabis	4,497	1,083	24	313	7	1,685	37
2000							
Possession of cannabis	22,304	1,578	7	13,638	61	361	2
Dealing in cannabis	3,195	526	16	231	7	1,213	38
2001							
Possession of cannabis	22,705	1,953	9	12,960	57	290	1
Dealing in cannabis	2,593	622	24	160	6	883	34
2002							
Possession of cannabis	25,976	2,321	9	14,123	54	241	1
Dealing in cannabis	2,545	565	22	154	6	805	32
2003							
Possession of cannabis	27,871	2,157	8	15,172	54	288	1

Number of defendants proceeded against at magistrates courts and found not guilty, fined and imprisoned at all courts for possession and dealing[1] in cannabis, England and Wales, 1997 to 2006[2,3]

		Found not guilty		Fined		Immediate custody	
	Proceeded against	Number	Percentage of those proceeded against	Number	Percentage of those proceeded against	Number	Percentage of those proceeded against
Dealing in cannabis	2,790	798	29	144	5	697	25
2004							
Possession of cannabis	14,646	1,326	9	6,972	48	161	1
Dealing in cannabis	2,142	439	20	122	6	576	27
2005							
Possession of cannabis	13,040	945	7	6,316	48	136	1
Dealing in cannabis	2,176	790	36	87	4	407	19
2006							
Possession of cannabis	13,450	914	7	6,368	47	141	1
Dealing in cannabis	2,216	874	39	50	2	341	15

[1] Includes supply and possession with intent to supply

[2] These data are on the principal offence basis. The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Evidence and Analysis Unit—Office for Criminal Justice Reform—Ministry of Justice IOS 554-08

Dungavel Detention Centre

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* families and *(b)* children aged (i) under 18, (ii) under 16 and (iii) under 10 years old are detained at Dungavel Detention Centre; and how many people have been detained there in each of the last five years. [232796]

Mr. Woolas *[holding answer 3 November 2008]:* On 30 October 2008 there was one family with no children in detention at Dungavel House

On 30 October 2008, there were two children with their mother in detention at Dungavel House immigration removal centre. Children are only ever held with their parents and normally spend no longer than 72 hours in the centre.

During 2006 there were 79 families with 162 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, seven children were aged 16 to 18 years, 27 children were aged between 10 and 15 years, and 128 children were under 10 years old. During 2006 the average length of stay for children was three days.

During 2007 there were 87 families with 184 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, seven children were aged 16 to 18 years, 49 children were aged between 10 and 15 years, and 126 children were under 10 years old. During 2007 the average length of stay for children was three days.

During 2008 to date there have been 67 families with 120 children held in detention at Dungavel House. Of these, four children were aged 16 to 18 years, 25 children were aged between 10 and 15 years and 91 children were under 10 years old. During this year to date the average length of stay for children has been three days.

Before 2006 records of the age of children held at Dungavel House were not held. Records were kept on the number of families and children detained, and in 2005 there were 52 families with 96 children detained at Dungavel House, and in 2004 there were 61 families with 105 children.

The figures given are based on management information rather than published statistics.

Gangmasters Licensing Authority: Cavendish Public Affairs

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what monetary payments the Gangmasters Licensing Authority has *(a)* made and *(b)* contracted to make, to Cavendish Public Affairs; and for what purposes. [233378]

Huw Irranca-Davies: I have been asked to reply.

The Gangmasters Licensing Authority (GLA) has made two payments to Cavendish Public Affairs:

1. £1,410.00 for preparing GLA personnel to provide evidence to the Home Affairs Committee's inquiry into human trafficking on 29 April 2008.
2. £4,406.25 for helping the GLA to prepare a public affairs strategy for the Authority in June 2008.

There is no current work contracted between the GLA and Cavendish Public Affairs.

Internet: Safety

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps the Government has taken to improve internet safety. [234891]

Mr. Woolas: The Prime Minister commissioned an independent review of the risks children face when using the internet and video games. This review 'Safer Children in a Digital World' was carried out by Dr. Tanya Byron and published in March 2008. The Government accepted all of the recommendations made in full.

Ipsos Mori

Mr. Ruffley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments *(a)* her Department and *(b)* its agencies have made to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months; and for what services the payments were made. [234654]

Mr. Woolas: Information on the Home Department and its agencies payments to Ipsos MORI in the last 24 months is as follows:

Department/agency	*Total payment in last 24 months (£)*
HO Headquarters and UKBA	1,256,896
Identity and Passport Service (IPS)	107,659
Criminal Records Bureau (CRB)	177,000

Ipsos MORI has provided a wide variety of services to the Home Office Headquarters and UKBA in the last 24 months. They include: Quarterly Opinion Polling on Crime and Immigration, facilitation of Young Witness Workshop, Local Victim and Witness Satisfaction Survey, Survey with Focus Group on Home Office Priorities, Arrestee Survey Review, Research conducted on Mapping Provision of Services for Young Victims of Crime, Polling on Citizenship, Public Opinion Polling on Attitudes to Immigration and Asylum, and Consultation for the Drugs Strategy. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) used Ipsos MORI for the Staff Survey and research on ID Cards.

The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) used Ipsos MORI for Staff, Public Awareness and Customer Surveys.

CHILDREN, SCHOOLS AND FAMILIES

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234707]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department makes no use of Airwave handsets, nor is it planning to do so. The use or planned use of communications' solutions by the organisations sponsored by the Department is a matter for them and no central records are held at this time.

Children: Human Rights

Mr. Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps he is taking to ensure that the operation of *(a)* the Children Act 1989 and *(b)* the Children and Adoption Act 2006 is compliant with Articles 6 and 8 of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of protecting a child's right to family life, where it is safe to do so; and if he will make a statement. [234193]

Beverley Hughes: Under the Human Rights Act 1998 it is unlawful for a public authority, which includes local authorities, in their dealings with children and families, to act in a way which is incompatible with ECHR rights. A person who claims that a local authority has acted in a way which breaches their article 6 or 8 convention rights may take proceedings against that authority. A court in determining any case in which a question arises in relation to convention rights must take into account ECHR case law and so far as possible read and give effect to primary and secondary legislation in a way which is compatible with convention rights. Courts have confirmed the compatibility of the principles and practice in children cases with convention rights.

Early Years Foundation Stage

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much funding his Department has allocated for designing and promoting the new logo for the Early Years Foundation Stage. [234131]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework is not represented by a specific logo. However, we have used hexagons in pastel shades of blue, purple, green and orange for the EYFS statutory guidance document and associated EYFS material. This logo was created during the production of the original EYFS document in 2007, which was subsequently reprinted in 2008. The cost allocated for designing this logo was £317.30. There were no specific promotional activities relating to this logo.

Mrs. Maria Miller: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department has spent on training childcare staff to deliver the Early Years Foundation Stage. [234132]

Beverley Hughes *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: The Department has funded early years training, in particular Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) training, through both the School's Standard Fund and the General Sure Start Grant (GSSG). In addition to this, we provided a further £7 million during 2007-08 to support EYFS training for schools and practitioners in private, voluntary and independent settings. At the same time we enabled greater flexibility within the Transformation Fund to support its use for training on the EYFS for the private, voluntary and independent sector. Because of the way we fund through these broad grants, local authorities have discretion over how these funds are used at local level and therefore other programme funds may also have contributed, and continue to contribute, to training on the EYFS. Consequently, the Department does not hold information on the sums put towards early years training from these budgets.

Free School Meals

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when he expects the evaluation of pilots for free school meals for primary schools to be completed. [235112]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The right hon. Secretaries of State for Children, Schools and Families and for Health announced our intention to run the pilots in September 2008. The pilots will run for two years beginning in September 2009, with the option of extending into a third year. We are currently developing a robust evaluation strategy to support the pilots and it is too early to say, at this time, when a report will be available.

General Certificate of Secondary Education: Young Offenders

Mr. Malins: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how many offenders in young offender institutions sat at least one *(a)* GCSE and *(b)* A level examination in each of the last six years. [234080]

Beverley Hughes: The Department does not collect data on the numbers of qualifications sat by young people in young offender institutions (YOIs).

However, the roll-out of the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) through the Learning and Skills Council (LSC) from 31 July 2006, means that some data on enrolments and achievements by young offenders within Prison Service run YOIs is now collected centrally. The data available are for 2006/07 only. Enrolments and achievements for juvenile offenders up to the age of 17 is as follows:

	Number of young people	
Qualification	*Enrolments*	*Achievements*
GCE A/AS/A2 level	17	1
GCSE	163	68
Total	180	69

However the LSC figures quoted do not provide complete records of all enrolments and achievements because some young people in custody remain enrolled at learning providers in the community and their achievements are not reflected in this data source. Also, many young people stay in custody only for a very short time, and therefore it is not realistic for them to enrol on and achieve long term qualifications.

Health Education: Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Grieve: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families when his Department's communications campaign about the risks of alcohol for 11 to 15 year olds will be launched; and what it will cost. [234567]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Government are committed to reducing substance misuse related harm among young people, including harm arising from the misuse of alcohol.

The Youth Alcohol Action Plan published in June 2008 set out our aim to launch campaigns targeting parents and young people by early 2009. The campaign plans are currently being developed alongside other commitments in the action plan. This type of campaign is informed by insight gathered from our target audience and detailed plans and costs are therefore not yet possible to predict. However, based on other similar behaviour change campaigns £5 million per year has been made available for the next three years to fund communications.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what steps his Department is taking to encourage children from the most deprived backgrounds to apply for admission to leading universities. [229863]

Mr. Lammy: I have been asked to reply.

This Government remain totally committed to widening participation in higher education (HE), for those from poorer and other under-represented backgrounds. This includes those young people who overcome the greatest challenges, not just to go to university at all, but to one of the most selective universities or courses. We, together with the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the universities themselves, are working to raise both aspirations of young people and attainment—to unlock the talent of each student so that they can progress to a university that will help them realise their full potential.

There is a range of current and emerging interventions designed to raise attainment and aspirations to progress to higher education. Leading universities are involved in all of these. These include:

(a) Aimhigher programme

A national outreach programme which seeks to widen participation in HE through local partnerships of universities, colleges and schools which co-design and deliver activities to raise attainment, aspiration and application levels of young people from backgrounds currently under-represented in HE.

(b) Aimhigher Associates

A new mentoring scheme. Pathfinder projects are being established with a view to national roll out in 2009. Associates are HE students who provide targeted support for and sharing of personal experience with young people through key transitions in their school and/or college careers, with a view to enabling their successful application to HE.

(c) Higher Education Funding Council for England's Widening Participation Allocation

Supports the additional costs of recruiting and retaining students from non-traditional backgrounds.

(c) HEI/school links

Are both structural and sustained. DIUS is promoting a range of ways in which universities can get involved with schools, including sponsoring academies and trusts.

(d) Summer School Programme

Funded by the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE), which targets young people from disadvantaged backgrounds. The programme has gained commitment from over 70 universities which include Oxford, Cambridge, Imperial College, London School of Economics, Bristol Liverpool, Birmingham and Warwick.

In September, the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills, announced that nine leading universities have agreed to extend opportunities for the best performing students from the most challenging backgrounds. Universities themselves want to do more to ensure they can identify and attract the most talented students. We are currently discussing the next steps with the universities involved.

Leading universities are also involved in providing help to gifted and talented learners funded by the Department for Children, Schools and Families, with the aim of improving their attainment. In particular, the gifted and talented strand of the City Challenges supports progression to leading universities for academically gifted year 10 pupils eligible for free school meals and attending schools in City Challenge areas. From this term, each will benefit from a tailored four-year support programme backed up by a £400 per year bursary to pay for additional out of school support.

Pre-School Education

Mr. Gibb: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what reasons the National Director of Early Years Strategy, Ruth Pimentel, has given for resigning her position. [235371]

Beverley Hughes: This is a private matter for the national director herself. She leaves having made a huge contribution to the delivery of our early years agenda, following the successful delivery of the Early Years Foundation Stage for which she has been a powerful advocate, and having led on work to ensure that every child gets the chance to experience high quality early learning and care. I know that she will continue to play an active part in the continued development of excellent early years practice, and I wish her well with the next stage of her career.

Pupils

Mr. Chaytor: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what proportion of students in each local education authority area *(a)* were eligible for free school meals, *(b)* had a statement of special educational needs and *(c)* were on School Action Plus in the latest year for which figures are available. [233331]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The information to answer part *(a)* can be found in Tables 16 for nursery and primary schools and 17 for secondary schools in the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'Pupil Characteristics and Class Sizes in Maintained Schools in England: January 2008 (Provisional)' in the excel file '(These Excel spreadsheets contain local authority tables of pupils characteristics and class sizes)'. This SFR is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000786/index.shtml

The information to answer part *(b)* can be found in Table 13 in the SFR 'Special Educational Needs in England: January 2008' in the excel file '(Additional analyses, including local authority level tables)'. This SFR is available at:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000794/index.shtml

The information to answer parts *(b)* and *(c)* can be found in Tables 14 and 15 of the same SFR for primary and secondary schools respectively.

Schools: Biometrics

Mr. Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what his Department's policy is on the use of biometrics in schools; and if he will place in the Library all guidance on the subject his Department has published. [234768]

Jim Knight *[holding answer 11 November 2008]*: The decision to implement biometric technology, for uses such as registration, in libraries and for school food, resides at school level. Becta's guidance was written in partnership with the Department and the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO). This guidance says that schools should consult as widely as possible with parents before implementing biometric-based systems. This guidance is in the public domain on the Becta and ICO websites. We will place this guidance in the House of Commons Library.

Schools: Databases

Mr. Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families whether pupils resident in Wales and Scotland who attend schools in England will be included on the ContactPoint database; and if he will make a statement. [234893]

Beverley Hughes: ContactPoint will not hold information on children who reside in Wales or Scotland unless that child also has a current residential address in England. If information is provided to ContactPoint on such a child (for instance by a school in England), the system will flag the record for review by the local authority ContactPoint management team and, once it has been confirmed that the information is for a child permanently residing outside England, the data will be moved to archive. The system submitting the information will receive an automated 'stop notice' asking them not to provide the information when it attempts to send these data again.

ContactPoint is an online directory to enable the delivery of co-ordinated support for young people. It will contain basic identifying information about all children and young people ordinarily resident in England up to their 18th birthday, and contact details for services working with them. These details have been clearly set out and restricted in section 12 of the Children Act 2004 and regulations made under section 12 and will not include any case information such as attendance, behaviour, educational achievement or exam results.

Secondary Education: Coastal Areas

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families what the turnover rate among pupils was in each secondary school serving the population of a principal seaside town in England in each of the last five years for which figures are available. [235545]

Sarah McCarthy-Fry: The Department does not collect information on the rates of turnover of pupils at schools. Local authority level data on the numbers of pupils in schools is available at:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway

South East: Departmental Expenditure

Dr. Stoate: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families how much his Department spent on services, broken down by type, in *(a)* Dartford Borough, *(b)* Kent Thameside, *(c)* the Thames Gateway, *(d)* Kent County Council area and *(e)* the South East region in each of the last five years. [222449]

Ed Balls: My Department does not make grant payments to Dartford borough, Kent Thameside, or the Thames Gateway. However it does make payments to Kent county council and local authorities in the South East region for children and families services. Tables showing the amount of Local Authority Grant funding which has been made available to these areas by my Department in each of the last five years are set out as follows, broken down by: revenue funding for children and families services; capital funding for schools; and capital funding for children and families.

Table 1: Funding made available to Kent county council by DCSF between 2003-04 and 2007-08

£ million

Kent	Children and families services[1]	Schools capital[2]	Children and families capital[2]
2003-04[3, 4]	90.413	91.700	0.358
2004-05[4, 5]	117.984	108.500	6.407
2005-06[4, 5]	108.655	90.500	0.594
2006-07	649.300	85.200	9.522
2007-08	808.775	91.600	20.349

Table 2: Funding made available to local authorities in the South East region, including Kent, by DCSF between 2003-04 and 2007-08

£ million

South East	Children and families services[1]	Schools capital[2]	Children and families capital[2]
2003-04[3, 4]	464.879	457.800	2.103
2004-05[4, 5]	578.028	474.600	24.215
2005-06[4, 5]	531.422	413.000	3.487
2006-07	4,311.505	486.800	55.875
2007-08	4,622.989	508.200	128.184

Notes:

[1] The aforementioned tables include Connexions funding, however up until 1 April 2008 no Connexions funding was paid direct to Kent authority, but to the Kent and Medway Connexions Partnership Ltd. Some Connexions grant was paid to other Partnerships in the South East region. Connexions grant not paid direct to authorities is as follows:

£ million

	Kent	South East
2003-04	12.941	62.654
2004-05	13.680	61.050
2005-06	13.789	47.292
2006-07	13.789	45.306
2007-08	13.808	28.424

Similarly until 2006-07 the Children's Fund was not paid direct to Kent local authority, but a voluntary organisation, although all other authorities in the South East received the Children's Fund direct. The allocation for the Kent area was £6.233 million in 2003-04; £3.597 million in 2004-05, and £3.083 million in 2005-06.

[2] Capital figures exclude PFI credit allocations, and supported borrowing allocations as part of Building Schools for the Future. Allocations for targeted capital projects are shown in the year the project started.

[3] The tables do not include children social care services grants in 2003-04 as responsibility for children social care services was transferred to this Department, from the Department of Health, in 2004-05.

[4] The Children and Families revenue figures for 2006-07 onwards are not comparable with figures in and before 2005-06 because the introduction of the Dedicated Schools Grant (DSG) in 2006-07 fundamentally changed how local authorities are funded for Education Services.

In 2005-06 local authorities were funded through the Education Formula Spending (EFS) which formed the education part of the Local Government Finance Settlement. The DSG is based on planned spend. In addition, the DSG has a different coverage to EFS, which comprises a schools block and a local education authority (LEA) block (to cover LEA central functions) whereas DSG only covers the school block. LEA block items are still funded through Communities and Local Government's Local Government Finance Settlement but education items cannot be separately identified. Consequently, there is a break in the Department's time series as the two sets of data are not comparable. For information the EFS figures for 2003-04 to 2005-06 are shown as follows:

	Kent	South East
2003-04	688.0	3,811.9
2004-05	725.3	4,023.1
2005-06	759.8	4,233.3

[5] Authorities were given two year Sure Start allocations covering 2004-06, these allocations are reflected in the 2004-05 funding figures in the tables for revenue and non-schools capital.

Vetting

Michael Gove: To ask the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families (1) how many and what proportion of Criminal Records Bureau checks were failed by those seeking to work with children *(a)* in 2002, *(b)* in 2005, *(c)* in 2007, *(d)* in 2008 and *(e)* since inception; [232338]

(2) how many Criminal Records Bureau checks were undertaken in respect of adults seeking to work with children in *(a)* 2002, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* 2008. [232339]

Beverley Hughes: In relation to question 232339, the information sought by the hon. Member is not available in the form requested. Figures provided as follows are based on the number of adults who have requested a check of the Protection of Children Act (POCA) list and list 99 as part of their standard or enhanced disclosure when completing a CRB application form.

Number of disclosures for adults working with children

Financial year	Number
2002-03	1,028,347
2005-06	1,991,499
2007-08	2,533,763
2008-09[1]	1,394,460

[1] April to September 2008.

This may not show all individuals who have applied to work with children or within the education sector because some applicants may not have requested a check of the two lists, on their application form, as this is not a mandatory field for completion.

In relation to question 232338, applicants do not pass or fail disclosures. A person who applies in the prescribed manner receives a disclosure providing the relevant details of any criminal records information, which is also provided to the registered body under part V of the Police Act 1997. This information will be taken into account by the employer in determining the suitability of an individual for a post applied for. The Department cannot advise employers whether or not they should employ a particular person.

Independent research conducted between 2004 and 2007 demonstrates that the CRB is continuing to make a difference to the protection of children and the vulnerable. Around 80,000 unsuitable people have been prevented from gaining access to children or the vulnerable, as a direct result of CRB checks in the past four years:

20,000 in 2004 (out of 2.6 million checks);

25,000 in 2005 (out of 2.7 million checks);

15,000 in 2006 (out of 3.2 million checks); and

20,000 in 2007 (out of 3.3 million checks).

Many more unsuitable people are deterred from applying to work with children and the vulnerable as a direct result of a requirement for a CRB check.

In 2007, around 190,000 CRB checks (5.7 per cent. of all checks) revealed information on an applicant and, of these, around 20,000 (11.1 per cent.) had a job offer withdrawn (representing less than 0.6 per cent. of all CRB checks). 74 per cent. of job offers that were withdrawn were as a result of conviction information. The majority of the convictions (56 per cent.) that resulted in the job offer being withdrawn were for theft and violence (GBH, ABH and assault).

BUSINESS, ENTERPRISE AND REGULATORY REFORM

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234708]

Mr. McFadden: The Department makes no use of Airwave handsets and has no plans to do so.

I have asked the Chief Executives of the Department's agencies to respond direct to the hon. Member. There are no central records available relating to the use or planned use of Airwave handsets by BERR's delivery partners.

Letter from Gareth Jones, dated 13 November 2008:

I am responding on behalf of Companies House to your recently tabled Parliamentary Question to the Minister of State for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform.

Companies House does not use and has no plans to use Airwaves handsets.

Letter from Stephen Speed, dated 13 November 2008:

The Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform has asked me to reply to you directly in respect of your question (2007/4360), asking what organisations for which his Department is responsible (a) use and (b) are planning to use Airwave handsets.

The Insolvency Service does not use Airwave Handsets and has no plans to do so.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its inception. [234092]

Mr. McFadden: A breakdown of the lost or stolen items as reported is provided in the following table.

	2008	*2007*
Mobile phones		
Stolen	0	0
Lost	2	1
Laptops		
Stolen	3	8
Lost	0	0
Desktops	0	0
Hard Drives	0	0
Memory Sticks	0	0

Departmental Information Officers

Mr. Hunt: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform which organisations provided media monitoring services to *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental public bodies it sponsors in each of the last three years; and what the cost of each such contract was. [230224]

Mr. McFadden: The information requested is in the following table.

BERR central monitoring costs

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
Media Monitoring Unit Cabinet Office	63	60	72
Press Cuttings—Durrants	244	275	234
Total	307	335	306

The chief executives of the Insolvency Service and Companies House will respond to the hon. Member directly.

Mr. Heald: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many full-time equivalent press officers *(a)* work and *(b)* provide assistance for his Department. [231504]

Mr. McFadden: There are 13 full-time equivalent press officers that work in the Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform and seven full-time equivalent press officers in UK Trade and Investment.

Departmental Marketing

David Simpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of Government-commissioned advertising in the last 12 months relating to matters falling within the remit of his Department. [226515]

Mr. McFadden: The Department commissioned the following advertising in the financial year to March 2008 via the Central Office of Information:

Nuclear energy consultation: press advertising to raise awareness of the consultation on the future of nuclear power in the UK;

Employing People campaign: press and online advertising to promote the free and practical advice to businesses on the Employing People section of the Business Link website; and

National Minimum Wage (NWM): online advertising targeting young people, press and online advertising targeting migrant workers, general awareness advertising on regional radio and on posters.

The cost-effectiveness of the advertising was assessed by the number of responses, for example, cost-per-click in the case of online advertising, potential audience size as calculated by press circulation and the discount on advertising rates achieved by COI against standard rate card costs. Post-campaign tracking research was used to assess the effectiveness of the National Minimum Wage and Employing People campaigns by testing a sample audience's recall of the advertisement as part of the overall campaigns.

Effective evaluation of campaign advertising is standard practice in Government communications.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235237]

Mr. McFadden: The number of people that were recruited into BERR from its creation in June 2007 to 24 October 2008:

Number of entrants aged over 55 = 122

Number of entrants aged over 60 = 15

These numbers represent people recruited through open competition, transfers from OGD's (other Government Departments), Secondments, Loans and Machinery of Government changes.

The percentage that represents people recruited through open competition from the numbers above are:

Number of new recruits aged over 55 = five (4 per cent.)

Number of new recruits aged over 60 = one (6.6 per cent.)

Energy Supply: Meters

Mr. Spellar: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what steps his Department is taking to ensure those who use prepayment meters are not disadvantaged. [224274]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 17 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

We announced in Budget 2008 that the then Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform was prepared to use his statutory powers with a view to reducing the differential between prepayment and other forms of payment for both gas and electricity.

Ofgem is currently investigating tariff differentials as part of its probe into the energy market. It is due to announce its findings in early October.

If Ofgem's analysis does show that prepayment meter customers are suffering disadvantage then we will in the first instance expect Ofgem and the energy suppliers to provide the solution. If sufficient progress is not made by this winter 2008-09, the Secretary of State is prepared to consult on legislation, with a view to reducing unjustified tariff differentials.

Flexible Working

Mr. Lidington: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform with reference to the judgment of the European Court of Justice in case C-303/06, what plans he has to issue new guidance to employers on the rights of carers to demand flexible working; and if he will make a statement. [221779]

Mr. McFadden: Carers of adults, together with parents of children under six and parents of disabled children under 18, already have the right to request flexible working. Employers must give serious consideration to their request but can decline it if necessary on specified business grounds. In considering a request for flexible working, as in other matters, employers must also avoid unlawful discrimination. The judgment in the European Court of Justice Case C-303/06 (Coleman *v.* Attridge Law), which concerns discrimination against an employee on grounds of her child's disability, does not provide a right to demand flexible working.

Inspections

Mr. Ancram: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many inspectors were employed by his Department in *(a)* 2007-08 and *(b)* 1997-98. [228092]

Mr. McFadden: There were 12 Employment Agency Standards (EAS) Inspectors employed in BERR in 2007-08 and this number has since been increased to 24. In September 2007 at the TUC Conference, John Hutton (then Secretary of State) announced a doubling of the number of inspectors (to 24). The new inspectors joined BERR in July 2008.

There were six EAS inspectors employed in BERR in 1997-98.

Plain English

David T.C. Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many documents produced by his Department were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [230499]

Mr. McFadden: One document produced by the Department has received a Crystal Mark since 2005: the Small Business Service document 'Tendering for public contracts', in October 2006. We have no record of whether there were other documents submitted for Crystal Mark status during this period.

Mr. Scott: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much has been spent by his Department on Plain English Campaign training courses for its staff in each year since 2005. [230615]

Mr. McFadden: BERR has not provided any centrally funded Plain English Campaign training courses for staff.

Plain English may form part of other communications training courses arranged by directorates but this information is not monitored centrally. To identify training individuals have received as part of their job specific development would be a disproportionate cost.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many documents produced by his Department and its predecessor were submitted to the Plain English Campaign for approval for Crystal Mark status in each year since 2005; and how many documents achieved such status in each year. [231108]

Mr. McFadden: One document produced by the Department has received a Crystal Mark since 2005: the Small Business Service document 'Tendering for public contracts', in October 2006. We have no record of whether there were other documents submitted for Crystal Mark status during this period.

Post Offices: Closures

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what assessment he has made of the effect on local communities of the closure of Francis Street and Walnut Street post offices in Leicester South constituency. [234685]

Mr. McFadden: In developing its proposals and reaching its final decisions on post office closures under the Network Change programme, Post Office Ltd. is required to comply with the access criteria set by Government, to take account of geographical factors, including distance to alternative outlets, and to consider a range of socio-economic factors including availability of public transport, local demographics and the impact on local economies. I understand that over 92 per cent. of the population covered by the Leicestershire, Northamptonshire and Rutland area plan have seen no change to the post office they used as a result of the Network Change programme.

Post Offices: Marketing

Mr. Harper: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what restrictions there are on the ability of individual Post Office branches to market to the public the services they provide. [234661]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 10 November 2008]*: This is an operational matter for Post Office Ltd. (POL). I have therefore asked Alan Cook, managing director of POL, to reply direct to the hon. Member.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Postal Services

Sir Peter Soulsby: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how many post boxes there are in *(a)* Leicester South constituency and *(b)* the City of Leicester; and how many there were in 1998. [234687]

Mr. McFadden: This is an operational matter for Royal Mail. I have therefore asked Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail, to reply direct to my hon. Friend.

Copies of the letter will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Public Holidays

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (1) what recent representations he has received on increasing the number of bank holidays; [227730]

(2) what recent representations his Department has received suggesting the creation of new bank holidays. [229385]

Mr. McFadden: The Government regularly receives representations requesting additional bank holidays for a variety of reasons. The pattern of bank holidays is well established and accepted but we keep all of these suggestions under consideration.

Regional Development Agencies: Finance

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform how much was spent on *(a)* external consultants and *(b)* private contractors by (i) the North West Regional Development Agency, (ii) One North East, (iii) Yorkshire Forward, (iv) Advantage West Midlands, (v) the East Midlands Development Agency, (vi) the East of England Development Agency, (vii) the South West of England Development Agency, (viii) the South East of England Regional Development Agency and (ix) the London Development Agency in each financial year since their creation; and if he will make a statement. [226756]

Mr. McFadden: The RDAs retain records of the last six years. To provide records before this period will incur disproportionate costs. The following tables show RDA figures for 2002-03 to 2007-08.

Expenditure on private contractors is defined as goods and/or services procured from sources excluding universities, public bodies, the third sector and also private sector organisations created and employed specifically to deliver products and services.

Expenditure on external consultants is deemed as that spent on services commissioned by the RDA to inform the management of the agency, organisational development, strategy, communicating and marketing. It excludes services for specific programme delivery.

RDA expenditure on external consultants

£000

RDA	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*
AWM	572	453	672	496	247	312
EEDA	449	282	226	714	563	453
EMDA	621	295	149	228	148	347
LDA[1]	39	30	335	479	2,062	1,529
NWDA	874	815	792	535	518	833
ONE	183	146	200	309	197	181

RDA expenditure on external consultants

RDA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
SEEDA	110	80	125	98	120	66
SWRDA	527	431	648	557	281	316
YF	180	270	296	194	228	390

[1] Increased consultancy fees can be explained through a need to quickly ramp up capacity alongside increased agency spending levels. This particularly applies to the Olympic Bid, Olympic Land Assembly and on other major capital projects such as Wembley Stadium.

[2] LDA had different financial recording systems in 2002 and 2003. To provide expenditure on external consultants for these years would incur disproportionate cost.

RDA expenditure on private contractors

RDA	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	£000 2007-08
AWM[1]	12,493	16,936	27,040	31,405	39,158	32,382
EEDA	13,594	14,238	1[illegible],921	16,775	16,391	15,388
EMDA	30,469	30,927	24,683	23,332	28,188	23,863
LDA	[2]0	[2]0	121	48	77	271
NWDA[3]	34,024	31,659	77,755	50,623	54,961	64,514
ONE	24,230	39,420	25,050	23,090	32,360	28,350
SEEDA	33,216	48,818	47,949	40,638	43,217	43,052
SWRDA	43,294	43,590	35,939	29,104	30,568	25,847
YF	44,700	47,958	47,969	50,805	35,572	41,162

[1] This expenditure figure relates to activity on the agency's land and property portfolio.

[2] LDA had different financial recording systems in 2002 and 2003. To provide expenditure figures on private contractors for these years would incur disproportionate cost.

[3] Expenditure on private contractors rose from 2002-03 to 2004-05 in line with an increase in agency responsibilities. Since 2004-05, the agency's delivery mechanism has moved away from direct development and more towards grant funding partners to deliver projects. Spend with private contractors has therefore fallen, but grant expenditure has risen accordingly.

Renewable Energy: Finance

Ben Chapman: To ask the Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if his Department will bring forward proposals for subsidising renewable electricity generators in circumstances of rising prices for fossil fuels. [223660]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* We already support renewable electricity generation through the renewables obligation. But given the challenges of security of energy supply, climate change and rises in fossil fuel prices we want to do more, not only on renewable electricity but also on renewable heat and transport fuels. We are currently consulting on potential measures designed to increase the use of renewable energy to around 15 per cent. of total energy by 2020 (depending on the final target to be agreed in the proposed EU renewable energy directive). The consultation document can be found at

www.renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk.

As regards support for renewable electricity, possibilities include further amendments to the renewables obligation (on top of the changes in the Energy Bill) and further support for microgeneration and small scale renewable electricity, possibly in the form of feed-in tariffs.

A copy of the consultation document can be found in both Libraries of the House.

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform what estimate he has made of the economic rent paid to renewable electricity generators in consumer subsidy; and what steps he is taking to minimise such costs. [223661]

Mr. Mike O'Brien *[holding answer 15 September 2008]:* I have been asked to reply.

Renewable electricity generators' income is derived from the sale of electricity, renewables obligation certificates and levy exemption certificates. The value they can derive from these is a matter for commercial negotiation in the market. The Government commissioned estimates of the costs of electricity generation from renewable sources and how much in practice the operators of such generating stations receive from the sale of the electricity, renewables obligation certificates and levy exemption certificates from Ernst and Young LLP. Their report "Impact of banding the Renewables Obligation - Costs of electricity production" (URN 07/948) was published by DTI in 2007 and copies were placed in both Libraries of the House.

Our proposed reforms of the renewables obligation are designed to increase both the effectiveness and the value for money of the instrument. These issues are discussed in the impact assessment that accompanies the Energy Bill that is currently being considered by Parliament. Our estimates in this impact assessment suggest that under our preferred option, rents could be reduced by £1.9 billion over the lifetime.

We are currently consulting on the UK renewable energy strategy, the consultation document can be found at:

www.renewableconsultation.berr.gov.uk.

Our work on the renewable energy strategy includes further considerations on the efficiency of the renewables obligation, see section 3.8 of the consultation document. Potential measures include reviewing the 'bands' of the renewables obligation, increasing the stability of the ROC price, and considering linking compensation under the renewables obligation to changes in electricity wholesale prices. A copy of the consultation document can be found in both Libraries of the House.

Royal Mail

Mr. Timpson: To ask the Minister of State, Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform if he will place in the Library a copy of Mr. Richard Hooper's report on the future of the Royal Mail. [233923]

Mr. McFadden *[holding answer 6 November 2008]*: The Government have not yet received the report, but expects to do so by the end of November.

The Review Panel was asked to consider how to maintain the universal postal service in the light of market developments.

HEALTH

Airwave Service

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what organisations for which his Department is responsible *(a)* use and *(b)* are planning to use Airwave handsets. [234700]

Mr. Bradshaw: Through the Ambulance Radio Programme it is planned that all NHS Ambulance Trusts in England will have a full Airwave service by the end of 2009. The following national health service bodies are already using terminals as part of the programme's roll-out:

East of England Ambulance Service NHS Trust
East Midlands Ambulance NHS Trust
Isle of Wight NHS Primary Care Trust
North East Ambulance Service NHS Trust
North West Ambulance Service NHS Trust.
South East Coast Ambulance Service NHS Trust
West Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust
Yorkshire Ambulance Service NHS Trust
London Ambulance NHS Trust

The Department does not routinely collect information on contracts that individual NHS bodies may have entered into with Airwave Solutions Ltd. for terminals.

Alcoholic Drinks: Young People

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department has taken to reduce the incidence of binge drinking among *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged 16 to 24 years. [234958]

Mr. Alan Campbell: I have been asked to reply.

As part of the Alcohol Strategy published in June 2007, the Home Office (and Department of Health) is currently highlighting the issue of our drinking culture through its national marketing campaign 'Know Your Limits'. This campaign aims to change the attitudes of 18 to 24s over the long term by increasing awareness of the problems and by highlighting the consequences of irresponsible drinking. We are doing this in a number of ways which include advertising and also through public relations. Our public relations work includes media advocacy and liaising with news media and also script writers to inform them about our policies and communications and to hold a mirror up to the way they portray alcohol. The aim of this work is to try and influence more positive associations with alcohol to create a culture where it is socially acceptable for young people to choose not to drink and, if they do start drinking, to do so later and more safely.

The Home Secretary announced in her speech on 6 February 2008 that a number of new measures and possible steps would be taken to crack down on crime and antisocial behaviour which is fuelled by alcohol. This includes highlighting the message that it is not acceptable for young people to drink in public places.

The Home Secretary also said that she is considering a number of options including making the possession of alcohol by a young person an offence or possibly involving the parents if alcohol is confiscated from a child. We are currently considering the effectiveness of the current powers and what can be done to help the police use them more effectively.

Additionally, the Culture Secretary, the right hon. Andy Burnham, said in his statement of 4 March 2008, that the offence of persistently selling alcohol to children would be changed from 'three strikes' to 'two strikes' in three months. The Government will legislate to increase the maximum fine for not obeying an instruction to stop drinking in a designated public place from £500 to £2,500. Other issues which may not require legislation include making it easier for the police to disperse antisocial drinkers and we will extend the alcohol arrest referral pilots so that under 18s may also benefit from a brief intervention from a trained worker.

Alcoholism

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent steps the Government have taken to reduce levels of alcoholism. [234791]

Dawn Primarolo: In June 2007, we published a comprehensive strategy to tackle the harms from excessive alcohol consumption—Safe, Sensible, Social—the next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy. A copy has already been placed in the Library. Our aims are:

to focus future action on reducing the types of harm that are of most concern to the public

to reduce the crime and ill health caused by alcohol

to increase the public's awareness of the risks associated with excessive consumption and how to get help

We undertook in Safe, Sensible, Social to commission an independent review of the relationship between alcohol price, promotion and harm. The second phase of this review will be published soon.

From 22 July 2008 until 14 October 2008, the Government carried out a major consultation asking for the views of the public and key stakeholders on what action the Government should take in response to the rising levels of alcohol-related health harm and crime and disorder. The Government are considering the comments carefully.

The Department put in place a vital signs indicator for the national health service from April 2008 to measure change in the rate of hospital admissions for alcohol-related conditions—the first ever commitment to monitor how the NHS is tackling alcohol harm. The Indicator is expected to encourage the NHS to identify risky drinking earlier, this approach linked with advice and support from general practitioners or other healthcare staff has been shown to be the best way of reducing the kind of 'everyday' harmful drinking that leads to health harm. The indicator also provides a strong incentive for primary care trusts (PCTs) to improve treatment provision for people dependent on alcohol.

A 'Review of the effectiveness of treatment for alcohol problems' was published in November 2006 by the National Treatment Agency (NTA) for the NHS. A copy has been placed in the Library. It provides comprehensive guidance on the relative effectiveness of the various alcohol treatment modalities. Guidance on developing effective local treatment systems has also been published. (Models of Care for Alcohol Misusers, DH/NTA 2005).

Funding has been made available for a £6 million Alcohol Improvement Programme, which is providing support to PCTs where alcohol-related harm is highest. Among other actions:

An Alcohol Learning Centre will help to spread world class commissioning practice across the country

A National Alcohol Treatment Monitoring System has been established to report performance data on the provision of alcohol treatment services.

Antibiotics

Mr. Lansley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much each hospital trust in England spent on antibiotics in 2007-08. [229966]

Dawn Primarolo: Information is not available in the format requested. Estimates of hospital spend on antibiotics for 2007-08, by net ingredient cost (NIC), by each strategic health authority (SHA) in England, are shown in the following table.

Estimated hospital spend on antibiotics in England 2007-08

SHA name	*NIC (£000)*
East Midlands	16,341.2
East of England	22,936.9
London	54,652.5
North East	15,869.7
North West	38,416.8
South Central	15,925.5
South East Coast	18,086.6
South West	25,023.8
West Midlands	24,872.2
Yorkshire and the Humber	22,960.6
Grand Total	255,085.8

Notes:

The net ingredient cost (NIC) is the cost of the drug at NHS list price. IMS Health data are classified according to a version of the Anatomical Therapeutic Chemical (ATC) classification system used by the World Health Organisation (WHO). Data have been provided for antibiotic products in the ATC categories below, as these correspond most closely to British National Formulary (BNF) section 5.1 (Antibacterial drugs).

J01 antibacterials for systemic use

J03 systemic sulphonamides

J04 antimycobacterials

J08 other anti-infectives.

There will be some antibiotic products, such as topical creams and eye drops, which are not included in BNF 5.1.

Source:

IMS Health: Hospital Pharmacy Audit Index

Data on prescriptions that are written in hospital and dispensed in the community are only held at national level by the NHS Information Centre. In 2007-08 the national spend on prescriptions written in hospitals and dispensed in the community for products in British National Formulary section 5.1 (Antibacterial drugs) was £3.4 million (NIC).

Carers: Social Security Benefits

Paul Rowen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many individuals on income support for regularly caring for individuals on disability living allowance had their support withdrawn as a result of hospitalisation in 2007-08. [231145]

Mr. McNulty: I have been asked to reply.

The information is not available.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of employees in his Department *(a)* are on a flexible working contract, *(b)* are on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours per week. [233831]

Mr. Bradshaw: The proportion of the Department's staff on a part-time working contract as at 30 September 2008 was 8.4 per cent. The proportion of staff on a job share contract at that time was 0.2 per cent. Information is not available on the percentage of staff working from home for more than four hours per week, as such arrangements are agreed with managers locally and no central records are held.

The Department encourages staff to work flexibly through providing opportunities for part time working, job sharing, term time only working and the use of flexitime. The last of these practices is particularly widespread. The Department also encourages other arrangements such as spreading working hours over nine days within a fortnight or four days within a week. It also provides the technology to allow staff to work at home on occasions. The Department also has in place specific arrangements to allow parents, adopters, guardians and foster carers of children under six (or disabled children under 18) to apply to work flexibly.

Departmental Consultants

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost has been to implement the SHOWA system for the aggregation of his Department's expenditure on consultancy services. [226856]

Mr. Bradshaw: The cost to date of implementing the SHOWA system, which was renamed the Business Management System (BMS) in July 2008, is £10.5 million. This cost is comprised of the following components:

Component	*Period*	*£ million*
Project start up and creation of Business case	August 2006 to February 2007	0.345
Design and build	March 2007 to December 2007	3.969
Testing	January 2008 to March 2008	3.046
Implementation and training	April 2008 to August 20	3.112

In addition to the facility that enables the accurate aggregation of the Department's expenditure on consultancy services, BMS also replaces the previous

Human Resource and Finance systems and provides a new procurement facility that ensures that the Department is able to negotiate and manage its contracts in accordance with industry best practice.

Although BMS represents a large investment in public funds, the work was undertaken on the basis that implementation of the new system will realise significant business benefits. The projected benefits are summarised and quantified in the following table:

Benefit Area	*£ million*
Ongoing savings over five years	8,160
Net savings resulting from off shoring/outsourcing services	4,219
Other savings from elimination of backup and recovery services	0.600

Realising the benefits of BMS is currently the responsibility of the BMS Strategy Board, chaired by the Department's Director of Operations. A benefits realisation plan has been prepared that will be overseen by the Strategy Board, with progress subject to quarterly review by the Corporate Management Board.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Redwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what sanctions are available in cases of departmental staff found to have committed disciplinary offences; and how many times each has been used in each of the last three years. [230200]

Mr. Bradshaw: The sanctions available in cases of staff found to have committed disciplinary offences are listed in the following table, together with the number of times each sanction has been enacted in the last two years. Figures are not available prior to 30 September 2006.

Sanction	*Times sanction used in the last 2 years*
Written reprimand	7
Dismissal without notice	0
Dismissal with notice	2
Disciplinary transfer	0
Withdrawal or withholding performance related pay	0
Levying of financial penalty	0
Ban on applying for posts	0
Demotion	1

Departmental Equality

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of how his Department has performed against the Government's equality and diversity targets. [233305]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department has exceeded targets set by the Cabinet Office for women, black and minority ethnic (BME) and disabled staff in the senior civil service (SCS), apart from that for women in top management posts (TMPs), covering SCS paybands 2 and above.

The Department has set itself higher targets, to be achieved by 31 March 2011. The targets, and the position as at 30 June 2008, all expressed as percentages, are presented in the following table.

	Cabinet Office target	*Department target*	*Department position as at 30 June 2008*
Women	37	43	40.9
Women in TMPs	30	35	26.3
BME	4	10	8.4
Disabled	3	6	5.3

Departmental Information Officers

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other remuneration was paid to guest speakers at each event organised by his Department for training of press officers in the latest period for which figures are available. [235641]

Mr. Bradshaw: No salary or other remuneration was paid to any guest speaker at any event organised by the Department for the training of press officers in the financial year 2007-08.

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what events were organised by his Department for the training of press officers in the last year; and what funds were allocated for each event; [235642]

(2) how much was spent on training for press officers in his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [235643]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department of Health media centre holds regular training sessions on press officer skills. These are organised in-house, run by senior colleagues and have incurred no financial costs.

In the financial year 2007-08, the Department of Health media centre spent a total of £1,200 (excluding VAT) on externally provided training for its press officers.

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235244]

Mr. Bradshaw: Six people aged over 55 were recruited in 2007-08, representing 3.6 per cent. of the total number of recruits. None of those recruited was over the age of 60.

Departmental Pay

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what *(a)* salary and *(b)* other remuneration was paid to guest speakers at internal training events within his Department in the latest period for which figures are available. [235640]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Department does not keep central records of internal training events run locally by business areas across the Department. To establish the information requested would incur disproportionate costs.

Frank Dobson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 30 October 2008, *Official Report*, column 1236W, on departmental pay, whether Mr. R Channing-Wheeler is still receiving £8,400 a month towards the cost of his accommodation. [235647]

Mr. Bradshaw: Mr. Wheeler has not received any contribution towards the cost of his accommodation since he left the Department on 15 July 2008.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to his Department of provision of office facilities to *(a)* special advisers and *(b)* press officers (i) was in the last 12 months and (ii) has been since 1997-98. [233527]

Mr. Bradshaw: It is not possible to calculate the cost of the provision of office facilities to special advisers and press officers for the period in question.

General Practitioners: Pharmacy

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many prescription items have been dispensed by dispensing doctors in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last three years; [232991]

(2) how many prescription items have been dispensed in the community by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and dispensing doctors in *(a)* Vale of York constituency and *(b)* England in the last three years. [233210]

Dawn Primarolo: The number of prescription items that have been dispensed in the community by community pharmacists, appliance contractors and by dispensing doctors is available for primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. The figures are based on a one in 20 sample of prescriptions. It is not possible to separate the figures for community pharmacists and appliance contractors so the combined figure is given in each case. The figures provided are for the PCT which is the closest match to the Vale of York, namely North Yorkshire and York PCT.

Number of prescription items dispensed in the community in England by dispenser type in calendar years from 2005 to 2007[1]

Thousand

Region	*Dispenser type*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*
England	Community Pharmacists and Appliance Contractors	651,536.6	682,407.0	722,937.9
	Dispensing Doctors	49,328.9	52,493.6	55,917.7
	Total[1]	700,865.5	734,900.6	778,855.6
North Yorkshire and York PCT	Community Pharmacists and Appliance Contractors	8,388.4	8,650.8	9,108.7
	Dispensing Doctors	2,553.0	2,670.4	2,820.8
	Total[1]	10,941.4	11,321.2	11,929.5

[1] Personally administered items are excluded from this analysis.

Source:

PCA data.

HIV Infection

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average life expectancy was of a patient diagnosed with HIV in each year from 2001. [234983]

Dawn Primarolo: A recently published article in *The Lancet* (2008; 372:293-99) provides estimates of life expectancy for HIV-infected adults receiving combination antiretroviral therapy. It is based on analysis of over 43,000 patients from industrialised countries, including some from the UK. The median life expectancy for such patients was 63 years for those diagnosed at age 20 and 67 years for those diagnosed at age 35.

Figures are not available for each year since 2001, but the estimated life expectancy increased between the first period studied in the research (1996-99) and the last (2003-05). For those patients starting combination therapy at age 20, life expectancy increased from an estimated 56.1 years in 1996-99 to 69.4 years in 2003-05. Equivalent figures at age 35 are from 60 years to 72.3 years.

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the rates of infection for *(a)* HIV, *(b)* genital herpes, *(c)* syphilis, *(d)* gonorrhea and *(e)* chlamydia were in each month from 2001 to 2008. [235086]

Dawn Primarolo: Rates of diagnoses for individuals accessing care in genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics reported to the Health Protection Agency (HPA) are not available by month but are available by year.

The following table gives the rate of diagnoses of anogenital herpes, primary and secondary infectious syphilis, gonorrhoea, Chlamydia and new HIV diagnoses and HIV infected individuals accessing care, for all ages in the United Kingdom, per 100,000 population; 2001 to 2007, the latest year available.

	Anogenital herpes[1]	*Primary and secondary infectious syphilis*[1]	*Gonorrhoea*[1]	*Chlamydia*[1]	*New HIV diagnoses*[2]	*HIV infected individuals accessing care*[3]
2001	32.0	1.3	40.1	129.4	8.6	44.6
2002	32.7	2.1	43.2	147.7	10.6	53.2

	Anogenital herpes[1]	*Primary and secondary infectious syphilis*[1]	*Gonorrhoea*[1]	*Chlamydia*[1]	*New HIV diagnoses*[2]	*HIV infected individuals accessing care*[3]
2003	32.3	2.8	41.9	161.5[1]	12.3	61.6
2004	31.9	3.8	37.3	175.0	12.7	69.6
2005	32.9	4.5	32.0	181.7	12.8	78.1
2006	36.0	4.4	31.2	187.8	12.1	86.0
2007	43.0	4.4	30.9	201.3	12.7	92.8

Notes:

1. Office for National Statistics population data were used to calculate rates.

New HIV and AIDS diagnoses:

2. Rates of diagnoses of HIV infections do not reflect new HIV infections as the long period of asymptomatic HIV infection results in a long average time between infection and diagnosis.

3. Figures may include some duplicate records of the same individuals, which are not removed because differences in the information supplied means they cannot be linked.

KC60 return and STISS:

4. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns and STISS are for diagnoses made in GUM clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as General Practice, are not recorded in the KC60 dataset or STISS.

5. The data available from the KC60 statutory returns and STISS are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed. Individual patients may have more than one diagnosis.

6. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Sources:

[1] HPA: KC60 returns and Sexually Transmitted Infections Surveillance Scotland (STISS)

[2] New HIV and AIDS diagnoses

[3] Annual survey of HIV-infected persons accessing care.

As HIV is a long-term, chronic condition, many individuals are living with HIV infection who were diagnosed in previous years. Therefore, the last column in the table shows the rates of diagnosed HIV infection among the general population (all ages). The rate will be higher among those aged 15 to 59 years. There are also persons living with HIV infection in the UK who are unaware of their infection this proportion was approximately one in every three HIV-infected persons in 2007.

In addition to cases in GUM clinics, the National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP) provides screening to asymptomatic people aged under 25 years in England and was launched in April 2003. The following table shows the positivity among those aged 13 to 24 years screened for Chlamydia during the period 1 April 2003 to 30 June 2008. The figures presented are positivity measures among those screened and not rates of infection in the general population.

Table 2: Positivity among those aged 13 to 24 years screened for Chlamydia, National Chlamydia Screening Programme: 1 April 2003 to 30 June 2008.

Quarter	*Number of negative screens (a)*	*Number of positive screens (b)*	*Total number of screens*[1]	*Positivity (a/a+b) 100*[1]
1 April 2003 to 30 June 2003	1,038	129	1,177	11.1
1 July 2003 to 30 September 2003	2,192	284	2,553	11.5
1 October 2003 to 31 December 2003	4,861	543	5,585	10.0
1 January 2004 to 31 March 2004	7,002	800	8,076	10.3
1 April 2004 to 30 June 2004	7,243	981	8,597	11.9
1 July 2004 to 30 September 2004	10,824	1,533	12,719	12.4
1 October 2004 to 31 December 2004	15,795	1,837	17,996	10.4
1 January 2005 to 31 March 2005	21,011	2,433	23,992	10.4
1 April 2005 to 30 June 2005	21,480	2,495	24,662	10.4
1 July 2005 to 30 September 2005	19,643	2,324	22,652	10.6
1 October 2005 to 31 December 2005	27,995	2,959	31,622	9.6
1 January 2006 to 31 March 2006	29,710	3,225	33,782	9.8
1 April 2006 to 30 June 2006	26,583	2,871	30,129	9.7
1 July 2006 to 30 September 2006	29,714	3,640	34,221	10.9
1 October 2006 to 31 December 2006	36,954	4,195	42,027	10.2
1 January 2007 to 31 March 2007	50,227	5,299	56,784	9.5
1 April 2007 to 30 June 2007	51,320	5,453	58,386	9.6
1 July 2007 to 30 September 2007	56,728	6,054	64,891	9.6
1 October 2007 to 31 December 2007	80,953	7,470	91,055	8.4
1 January 2008 to 31 March 2008	115,519	10,100	129,172	8.0
1 April 2008 to 30 June 2008	112,451	10,250	126,119	8.4
All quarters	729,243	74,875	[illegible]6,197	9.3

[1] Total screens includes screens with insufficient sample, inhibitory and equivocal test results and therefore might not equal number of negative + number of positive screens

Source:

The NCSP Core Dataset.

Hospitals: Admissions

Mike Penning: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people per thousand received emergency admittance to hospital in England in each of the last five years. [234766]

Mr. Bradshaw: The available information is provided in the following table.

Count of emergency hospital admissions and rate per 1000 population for 2002-03 to 2006-07—national health service hospitals, England, and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS

	Emergency hospital admissions	*Population for England*	*Estimated rate per 1,000 population*
2006-07	4,700,017	50,762,945	92.588
2005-06	4,659,054	50,465,625	92.321
2004-05	4,428,680	50,110,688	88.378
2003-04	4,158,734	49,866,170	83.398
2002-03	3,953,480	49,652,294	79.623

Notes:

1. Population data and rates:

The population data used was provided by the Populations and Geographies team in the NHS Information Centre. These figures are for calendar years only; therefore 2006-07 HES data uses 2006 population data. Also the population data are for residents of England whereas HES data are for activity in NHS Hospitals England and activity performed in the independent sector in England commissioned by English NHS.

2. Assessing growth through time:

HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. During the years that these records have been collected by the NHS there have been ongoing improvements in quality and coverage. These improvements in information submitted by the NHS have been particularly marked in the earlier years and need to be borne in mind when analysing time series.

Some of the increase in figures for later years (particularly 2006-07 onwards) may be due to the improvement in the coverage of independent sector activity.

Changes in NHS practice also need to be borne in mind when analysing time series. For example, a number of procedures may now be undertaken in outpatient settings and may no longer be accounted for in the HES data. This may account for any reductions in activity over time.

3. Data quality:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England. Data are also received from a number of independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data via HES processes. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

4. Finished admission episodes:

A finished admission episode is the first period of inpatient care under one consultant within one health care provider. Finished admission episodes are counted against the year in which the admission episode finishes. Please note that admissions do not represent the number of in-patients, as a person may have more than one admission within the year.

5. The following admission methods were used to identify 'emergency hospital admissions:

21 = Emergency: via Accident and Emergency (A and E) services, including the casualty department of the provider

22 = Emergency: via general practitioner (GP)

23 = Emergency: via Bed Bureau, including the Central Bureau

24 = Emergency: via consultant outpatient clinic

28 = Emergency: other means, including patients who arrive via the A and E department of another health care provider

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Hospitals: Standards

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what methodology his Department uses to assess the (a) clinical standards, (b) safety and (c) patient outcomes of specialist (i) services and (ii) surgical procedures and support in each (A) acute hospital and (B) acute hospital trust; [230213]

(2) what evidential basis Ministers in his Department draw upon when commenting on clinical standards in each acute trust. [230214]

Mr. Bradshaw: The independent healthcare regulator, the Healthcare Commission, is responsible for assessing the performance of NHS trusts and has recently published the results of its annual health check for 2007-08. Departmental officials have passed on the hon. Member's queries to the Chief Executive of the Healthcare Commission who will write directly to the hon. Member on the points he has raised.

Incontinence: Medical Equipment

Harry Cohen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will make it his policy to ensure that the additional services currently provided to patients by dispensing appliance contractors are maintained under the proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology services in primary care; and if he will make a statement. [234924]

Phil Hope: Throughout the review of the arrangements under part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in primary care, one of the Department's key aims has been to maintain, and where applicable improve, the current quality of care to patients and to provide a consistent level of care.

The Department recognises that dispensing appliance contractors provide a number of services which many users value. However, these services are not required under the terms of their NHS service provision. Therefore, the Department wants to make sure that key services are included in the arrangements for the provision of pharmaceutical services made by primary care trusts under part 7 of the NHS Act 2006, and incorporated into the terms of service set out in the "NHS (Pharmaceutical Services) Regulations 2005"—and that such services are provided to the same standard. The Department also proposes to make a contribution towards the cost of these services.

Proposals relating to both amendments to terms of service were set out in the consultation entitled "Proposed new arrangements under Part IX of the Drug Tariff for the provision of stoma and urology appliances—and related services—in Primary Care. June 2008". The consultation closed on 9 September and all responses are being evaluated against the Department's stated aims—particularly those relating to patient care—before any decisions are made.

Influenza

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Romsey (Sandra Gidley) of 9 January 2008, *Official*

Report, columns 594-95W, on influenza, what progress he has made towards the delivery of the initial phase of the National Flu Line Service by the end of 2008; what steps comprise the initial phase of implementation; what other phases of implementation are required for the service to become operational; and if he will make a statement. [235506]

Dawn Primarolo: The National Pandemic Flu Line Service will be available in the event of a pandemic, to provide rapid access to antiviral treatment and to ease the burden on front-line health care services.

Current plans are for a fully operational first release of the system to be delivered and tested in early 2009. A preferred supplier has been selected and we expect to place contracts shortly.

Primary care trusts are currently making arrangements for local antiviral collection points and stock management and distribution systems are in development.

This timetable is subject to review if the likelihood of a pandemic increases in the meantime, with the announcement of World Health Organisation phase 4.

Leicester City Primary Care Trust

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how much Leicester City Primary Care Trust spent on specialist treatment for alcohol dependency in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997; how many cases of alcohol dependency it dealt with in each of those years; and what treatments it makes available for people with alcohol dependency; [234964]

(2) what the Leicester City Primary Care Trust budget for preventative measures against alcohol dependency was in *(a)* 2007 and *(b)* 1997; what the average waiting time for specialist treatment for alcohol dependency in the trust area was in each of those years; how much the trust spent on residential treatment for alcohol dependency in each of those years; and what its budget for alcohol awareness campaigns was in each of those years. [234965]

Dawn Primarolo: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Safe. Sensible. Social. The next steps in the National Alcohol Strategy was published in 2007 and sets out this Government's strategy to tackle harmful and binge drinking. A copy of this document is already in the Library.

Funding is allocated directly to primary care trusts (PCTs), including Leicester City PCT, who are responsible for commissioning appropriate services to meet the needs of their local populations. This includes investing in preventing and treating harm caused by alcohol. Leicester City PCT will be receiving £150,000 as part of a pilot scheme to trailblaze new approaches to tackle alcohol misuse in health inequality hotspots across the city.

Medical Treatments: Finance

Anne Milton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of *(a)* the application of the incremental cost-effectiveness ratio used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence in its assessment of treatments for very rare conditions assessed as costing between £50,000 and £300,000 per quality-assisted life year and *(b)* the effect of this practice on the level of uptake of medicines for rare conditions; [231126]

(2) what representations he has received on the application by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence of its incremental cost-effectiveness ratio to its assessment of treatments for very rare conditions assessed as costing between £50,000 and £300,000 per quality-assisted life year. [231128]

Dawn Primarolo: The methodology used by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) to develop its guidance is determined by NICE itself. NICE publishes details of its appraisal methodology in its 'Guide to Methods of Technology Appraisal' and its 'Social Value Judgements: Principles for the Development of NICE Guidance'. Both of these documents have recently been reviewed following public consultation and are available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/media/B52/A7/TAMethods
GuideUpdatedJune2008.pdf

and

http://www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/
socialvaluejudgements/socialvaluejudgements.jsp

I also refer the hon. Member to the Secretary of State for Health's statement to the House on 4 November about Professor Mike Richards' review of current policy concerning NHS patients who wish to pay for additional private drugs. This statement reported on proposals received from NICE to apply more explicit flexibility to the appraisal of high cost drugs for less common terminal illnesses, including rarer cancers.

The Department has received a number of representations on treatments for very rare conditions some of which have been in relation to NICE appraisals.

NHS Treatment Centres: Private Sector

Mr. Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to *(a)* provide better information to people about treatment available at independent sector treatment centres (ISTCs) and *(b)* provide free transport for patients to ISTCs. [233735]

Mr. Bradshaw: As part of the wave 1 and phase 2 independent sector treatment centre (ISTC) contracts providers are legally required to produce referring health service bodies (RHSB) literature and patient literature. It is therefore the responsibility of the provider to provide information to people about treatment available at ISTCs.

The ISTC contracts stipulate that RHSB literature should include but not be limited to: a description of the nature of the activities provided at each facility including information for GPs and other referrers; information about the referral process; logistical information such as maps detailing the location of the ISTC.

The contracts also set out that patient literature should include but not be limited to the following: a description of the activities provided at each facility; a general explanation of the referral process and the likely length of stay and the likely time involved for the activity or length of appointment.

Patients referred to ISTCs are eligible, as are all national health service patients, for free travel to and from premises providing NHS health care and between NHS health care providers as long as it is non-urgent, planned and based on medical need. If a health care professional were to refer a patient to an ISTC, then free transport would be available provided the patient met the aforementioned criteria. However, this would be for the local NHS to decide and arrange accordingly.

Under certain circumstances, patients who are attending an ISTC for NHS-funded treatment who do not qualify for free transport may be eligible for the reimbursement of the costs they incur in travelling to and from their appointment through the Healthcare Travel Costs Scheme. This is part of the NHS Low Income Scheme and ensures that no one foregoes care because of financial constraints.

NHS: Dental Services

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people *(a)* had access to and *(b)* were registered with an NHS dentist immediately prior to the introduction of the new NHS dental contract in (i) Suffolk and (ii) South Suffolk. [233657]

Ann Keen: The number of patients registered with a national health service dentist in England as at 31 March from 1997 to 2006 is available in Annex A of the report NHS Dental Activity and Workforce Report, England: 31 March 2006. Information is provided by primary care trust (PCT) and by strategic health authority (SHA). Annex C provides information by constituency.

This information is based on the old contractual arrangements that were in place up to and including 31 March 2006. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dwfactivity

Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with an NHS dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services '(patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The numbers of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England in the 24-month period ending 31 March 2006 are included within Table C1 of Annex 3 of the report NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007. Information is provided by SHA and PCT. Information is not available by constituency.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of NHS dental services for new patients in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* South Suffolk. [233658]

Ann Keen: The Department has made no such assessment. Primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for commissioning dental care services to reflect local needs and priorities. We have made increasing the number of patients seen within national health service dental services year on year a formal priority for PCTs in the NHS Operating Framework for 2008-09 (which has already been placed in the Library). We have supported this with a substantial 11 per cent. uplift in overall dental funding allocations to PCTs from 1 April 2008.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of NHS dentists in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* South Suffolk. [233680]

Ann Keen: The numbers of dentists with national health service activity during the years ending 31 March 2007 and 31 March 2008 are available in Table G1 of Annex 3 of the report NHS Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08. This has already been placed in the Library. Information is provided by strategic health authority and by primary care trust but is not available by constituency. This information is based on the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006.

Following a recent consultation exercise, this measure is based on a revised methodology and therefore supersedes previously published workforce figures relating to the new dental contracual arrangements. It is not comparable to the information collected under the old contractual arrangements. This revised methodology counted the number of dental performers with NHS activity recorded via FP17 claim forms in each year ending 31 March. This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the website of the Information Centre for health and social care at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dental0708

The published numbers relate to headcounts and do not differentiate between full-time and part-time dentists, nor do they account for the fact that some dentists may do more NHS work than others.

Mr. Yeo: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of people registered with NHS dentists in *(a)* Suffolk and *(b)* South Suffolk. [233681]

Ann Keen: Under the new dental contractual arrangements, introduced on 1 April 2006, patients do not have to be registered with a national health service dentist to receive NHS care. The closest equivalent measure to 'registration' is the number of patients receiving NHS dental services ('patients seen') over a 24-month period. However, this is not directly comparable to the registration data for earlier years.

The Dental Services Division (DSD) of the NHS Business Services Authority has recently issued information about patients seen at primary care trust (PCT) level. However, this was for management purposes.

Due to some concerns over the allocation of patients to PCTs across the various quarters, sub-national information on patients seen was not included in the report Dental Statistics for England: 2007-08, published by the Information Centre for health and social care in August 2008. The DSD has confirmed that this issue could have only a minimal impact on the national figures, which were included in the report but labelled as provisional.

These concerns have been addressed and, as a result, the sub-national information about patients seen for the 24-month period ending 30 June 2008 will be provided as normal in the report NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 1: 30 June 2008, due to be published by the Information Centre on 20 November 2008.

In addition, the sub-national data for the 24-month period ending 31 March 2008, omitted from the 2007-08 publication, will be included in the annexes to the above report.

The latest sub-national information available on the number of patients seen by an NHS dentist in England over the previous 24-month period is in Table C1 of Annex 3 of the report NHS Dental Statistics for England: Quarter 3: 31 December 2007. Information is available for the 24-month periods ending 31 March 2006, 31 March 2007, 30 June 2007, 30 September 2007 and 31 December 2007. Information is provided by strategic health authority and PCT. Information is not available by constituency.

This report has already been placed in the Library and is also available on the Information Centre website at:

www.ic.nhs.uk/pubs/dentalstats0708q3

Oxygen: Medical Equipment

Mr. Stephen O'Brien: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to the home oxygen patient satisfaction survey, what the results were for answers to questions 5, 8, 16, 27 and 36, broken down by *(a)* supplier and *(b)* primary care trust area. [231977]

Mr. Bradshaw: The Home Oxygen Service Satisfaction Survey results for questions 5, 8, 16, 27 and 36 broken down by supplier are as follows. The Department does not hold information by primary care trust area.

Question 5—satisfaction with service provided by home oxygen supplier at the moment

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Satisfied	2,914	95	1,685	95	604	95	430	95	196	97
Dissatisfied	95	3	40	3	21	3	20	4	4	2
Other	56	2	35	2	14	2	4	1	2	1
Total respondents	3,065	—	1,769	—	639	—	455	—	202	—

Question 8—satisfaction with day-to-day aspects of the Home Oxygen Service and equipment—ease of using your equipment

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Satisfied	2,917	95	1,683	95	604	95	438	96	191	95
Dissatisfied	33	1	23	1	5	1	4	1	2	1
Other	115	4	63	4	30	4	13	3	9	4
Total respondents	3,065	—	1,769	—	639	—	455	—	202	—

Question 16—whether respondent is confident that they can use home oxygen equipment safely

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Satisfied	2,917	95	1,685	95	608	95	429	94	194	96
Dissatisfied	21	1	9	1	6	1	3	1	1	1
Other	127	4	75	4	25	4	23	5	7	3
Total respondents	3,065	—	1,769	—	639	—	455	—	202	

Question 27—satisfaction with aspects of most recent urgent call out requested—the action taken by your home oxygen supplier in response to your urgent call out

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Satisfied	367	88	225	88	69	93	56	82	17	88
Dissatisfied	20	5	10	4	1	2	8	12	1	6
Other	30	7	21	8	6	5	6	6	2	8

Question 27—satisfaction with aspects of most recent urgent call out requested—the action taken by your home oxygen supplier in response to your urgent call out

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Total respondents	418	—	256	—	74	—	68	—	20	—

Question 30—whether you think the Home Oxygen Service has improved, stayed the same or got worse in the last 12 months

			Home Oxygen Supplier							
							Air Liquide			
	Total		*Air Products*		*BOC*		*SE*		*NE*	
Satisfaction level	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Improved	493	16	299	17	97	15	63	14	34	17
Stayed the same	1,854	60	1,101	62	360	56	276	61	117	58
Got worse	33	1	17	1	4	1	10	2	2	1
Other	685	23	352	20	178	28	106	23	49	24
Total respondents	3,065	—	1,769	—	639	—	455	—	202	—

Performance Appraisal

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff in his Department did not achieve an acceptable assessment grade in their annual report in the latest reporting year for which figures are available. [235223]

Mr. Bradshaw: In 2007-08, the performance of staff in the Department up to Grade 6 was assessed as Excellent, Good or Unsatisfactory. With a small number of assessments still to be confirmed, 10 staff were assessed as Unsatisfactory, representing 0.5 per cent. of the total. Performance arrangements for staff in the Senior Civil Service are common across all Departments. In 2007-08 there was no one in the Department whose performance was assessed as unacceptable.

Tuberculosis: Vaccination

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on administering BCG vaccines to children in education but not resident in high tuberculosis incidence areas in the last 12 months; how many of these supported such an extension to the BCG vaccination programme; and if he will make a statement. [235548]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department has received very low levels of correspondence on this issue. Of the letters that the Department did receive, most supported an extension to the BCG programme.

However, the Department moved to a selective policy following advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Having reviewed all available scientific and epidemiological evidence, the JCVI recommended from September 2005 that a targeted approach to vaccination should be introduced to replace the national schools BCG programme.

The key reasons behind this decision were:

the primary role of the BCG vaccination is to protect individuals at high risk of exposure to tuberculosis (TB);

since the introduction of the schools based BGC programme the epidemiology of TB has changed from a disease of the general population in tine 1950s to one of predominately high-risk groups;

targeted BCG vaccination means that the majority of children at high risk of TB exposure will now be vaccinated earlier in life than under the previous policy;

the BCG is most effective at preventing severe forms of TB in infants and young children; and

protection decreases with time but repeated vaccination does not appear to offer any additional protection.

JCVI reviewed its advice in 2007 and concluded that the evidence continued to support the Department of Health policy. A copy of the JCVI advice on this issue is available at:

http://www.advisorybodies.doh.gov.uk/jcvi/bcg-jcvi-statement_updateAug2007.pdf

Tysabri

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many prescriptions for Tysabri have been issued in each of the last two years, broken down by *(a)* NHS region and *(b)* age of recipient. [234829]

Dawn Primarolo: The Department does not hold information on the number of prescriptions that are issued, only those that are issued and then dispensed. Information is not collected on which patients are prescribed drugs, so it is not possible to determine the age of a patient. There have been no prescriptions for Tysabri (natalizumab) dispensed in the community in England in the period requested.

The Intercontinental Marketing Service hospital pharmacy audit index indicates that for all strategic health authorities (SHAs) in England, there were 0.2 thousand packs of the drug administered in 2007 and 0.3 thousand packs in the period January to March 2008. There is no recorded use of the drug prior to 2007. Due to the disclosive nature of the data, it is not possible to present it by individual SHA.

DUCHY OF LANCASTER

Departmental Older Workers

Mr. Burstow: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster how many people recruited by his Department in 2007-08 were aged over *(a)* 55 years and *(b)* 60 years; and what percentage this represented of the number of new recruits in each case. [235234]

Mr. Watson: I refer the hon. Member to the response given to the hon. Member for Upper Bann (David Simpson) on 3 November 2008, *Official Report,* column 22W.

Government Departments: Absenteeism

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance the Cabinet Office provides to other Government departments on statistics to be collected on absenteeism levels of their staff and staff of the public bodies for which they are responsible. [233369]

Mr. Watson: Cabinet Office guidance is that Government Departments should collect sickness absence statistics on a quarterly basis.

Government Departments: Internet

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster on what websites government communications jobs are advertised to the public. [233364]

Mr. Watson: Individual Departments are responsible for advertising their jobs.

The Government Communication Network (GCN) advises that Government communications jobs which are open to the public are advertised on the Civil Service Recruitment Gateway.

Higher Civil Servants

Mr. Maude: To ask the Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster what guidance is provided to senior civil servants on holding shares in companies from which they procure services. [233381]

Mr. Watson: The rules and guidelines for civil servants on holding shares and other investments are set out in the "Civil Service Code" and the "Civil Service Management Code".

Copies of the codes are available in the Libraries of the House.

INNOVATION, UNIVERSITIES AND SKILLS

Adult Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when the response to the consultation on informal adult learning will be published. [229003]

Mr. Simon: "Informal Adult Learning—Shaping the Way Ahead" started an important debate about the role and nature of informal adult learning in the 21st century. The response to the consultation exceeded expectations, with around 5,500 responses. We published the Central Office for Information's consultation report and the DIUS response on our website on Thursday 9 October.

Informal adult learning is highly valued by Government. We recognise the significant contribution it makes to the quality of life, health and well-being of individuals, neighbourhoods and wider society. We have made an unequivocal commitment to sustain its funding, with £210 million available every year until the end of the comprehensive spending review period.

DIUS officials are now developing the proposals arising from the consultation, working closely with a wide range of stakeholders. These policy proposals will pave the way towards a new informal adult learning strategy to be published early next year.

Construction: Education

Sarah Teather: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many people in each region enrolled on courses for each level of qualification in construction at further education colleges in each of the last 10 years. [234932]

Mr. Simon: Table 1 shows the number of enrolments on construction courses in further education colleges by level of course and region, for 2002-03 to 2006-07, the latest year for which fully audited data is available. Comparable information is not available prior to the formation of the Learning and Skills Council in 2001.

Table 1: Enrolments on construction courses in FE colleges by notional level of course and region of learner: 2002-03

	Notional Level of Aim					
Region	Level 1 and Entry Level	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4, 5 or Higher	Other	Total
East Of England	3,680	7,450	3,020	480	3,950	18,580
East Midlands	3,690	7,040	3,600	630	6,570	21,530
Greater London	7,170	9,380	5,980	740	5,290	28,560
North East	3,590	4,160	1,120	310	4,140	13,330
North West	7,170	10,200	8,260	1,000	8,940	35,570
South East	6,090	12,430	9,090	600	8,950	37,150
South West	5,290	5,700	4,440	420	10,310	26,160
West Midlands	7,100	7,640	4,390	470	3,620	23,210
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,820	7,710	3,940	670	5,320	24,470
Region not Known	1,260	3,130	1,570	180	1,750	7,890
Total	51,870	74,850	45,400	5,500	58,840	236,460

Enrolments on construction courses at FE colleges in 2003-04

	Notional Level of Aim					
Region	*Level 1 and Entry Level*	*Level 2*	*Level 3*	*Level 4, 5 or Higher*	*Other*	*Total*
East Of England	4,180	8,610	2,380	430	2,520	18,140
East Midlands	4,240	8,230	2,320	570	4,610	19,960
Greater London	8,390	9,580	3,650	680	4,100	26,390
North East	4,830	5,610	1,360	280	4,250	16,340
North West	8,550	10,170	5,820	990	6,250	31,790
South East	7,150	14,190	4,430	620	7,110	33,490
South West	6,290	7,990	2,650	390	5,210	22,530
West Midlands	7,000	7,090	2,640	350	2,780	19,870
Yorkshire and Humberside	6,250	7,880	3,220	610	5,500	23,450
Region not Known	1,230	2,690	790	150	1,360	6,220
Total	58,140	82,030	29,250	5,070	43,680	218,170

Enrolments on construction courses at FE Colleges in 2004-05

	Notional Level of Aim					
Region	*Level 1 and Entry Level*	*Level 2*	*Level 3*	*Level 4, 5 or Higher*	*Other*	*Total*
East Of England	2,440	7,860	3,780	550	1,070	15,700
East Midlands	2,150	7,850	2,700	620	930	14,250
Greater London	3,150	9,120	4,010	700	2,630	19,610
North East	2,430	6,760	1,600	380	1,130	12,300
North West	5,220	12,710	6,340	1,100	1,320	26,680
South East	4,100	14,720	5,190	710	3,890	28,610
South West	3,290	7,330	3,590	610	3,660	18,470
West Midlands	3,360	7,600	3,250	430	1,080	15,710
Yorkshire and Humberside	3,860	8,630	3,660	710	650	17,510
Region not Known	700	1,960	750	170	510	4,090
Total	30,700	84,530	34,850	5,970	16,860	172,920

Enrolments on construction courses at FE colleges in 2005-06

	Notional Level of Aim					
Region	*Level 1 and Entry Level*	*Level 2*	*Level 3*	*Level 4, 5 Or Higher*	*Other*	*Total*
East Of England	2,970	7,090	2,880	540	1,680	15,160
East Midlands	2,970	7,690	2,470	640	410	14,170
Greater London	4,340	8,640	3,490	720	2,160	19,350
North East	2,550	7,270	1,810	390	1,020	13,040
North West	5,890	12,020	6,130	900	1,030	25,960
South East	4,760	12,800	4,900	790	3,000	26,240
South West	3,610	6,720	3,010	590	3,050	16,980
West Midlands	4,280	7,150	2,810	390	770	15,400
Yorkshire and Humberside	4,460	7,890	3,890	610	560	17,410
Region not Known	670	2,100	830	160	690	4,450
Total	36,480	79,380	32,220	5,740	14,350	168,170

Enrolments on construction courses at FE colleges in 2006-07

	Notional Level of Aim					
Region	*Level 1 and Entry Level*	*Level 2*	*Level 3*	*Level 4, 5 or Higher*	*Other*	*Total*
East Of England	4,210	6,320	2,340	490	520	13,870
East Midlands	3,910	7,460	2,300	540	650	14,870
Greater London	5,750	7,350	2,680	720	1,280	17,790
North East	2,860	6,530	1,950	410	1,090	12,840
North West	6,340	11,230	4,930	970	1,160	24,630
South East	5,880	11,380	3,740	730	3,030	24,760
South West	4,080	7,470	2,780	600	2,470	17,400
West Midlands	5,520	6,910	2,520	470	1,150	16,570
Yorkshire and Humberside	5,690	7,010	3,350	750	640	17,440
Region not Known	530	1,080	570	110	300	2,580
Total	44,740	72,750	27,160	5,780	12,290	162,720

Notes:

1. Figures may not sum to totals due to rounding.
2. Region is based on learner's home postcode.
3. 'Sector Subject Area' has been used to identify construction courses from 2004-05. Prior to this the concept of 'Sector Subject Area' did not apply, and so 'Area of Learning' has been used.
4. These figures include both LSC-funded and non-LSC funded courses.
5. Region not known includes those learners living outside of England, and those learners with a blank or incorrect postcode.

Copyright Tribunal

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to announce the composition of the new Copyright Tribunal. [235465]

Mr. Lammy: The IPO has agreed a timetable with the Judicial Appointments Commission to recruit a Deputy Chairperson. The appointment will be announced in early April 2009. In addition the eight new lay members to be appointed to the tribunal will also be announced in April 2009.

Dr. Gibson: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills when he expects to decide on the right of collecting societies to take cases to the Copyright Tribunal. [235466]

Mr. Lammy: The IPO is analysing a number of issues in relation to the jurisdiction of the Copyright Tribunal. I expect this work to have been completed, and to be in a position to bring forward proposals, in 2009.

Departmental Conditions of Employment

Mrs. May: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what percentage of employees in his Department are *(a)* on a flexible working contract, *(b)* on a job share employment contract and *(c)* work from home for more than four hours a week. [233855]

Mr. Simon: Any member of staff can request a change to their working pattern and line managers consider requests in line with the Department's policy and guidance.

13 per cent. of all staff work part-time but information is not held centrally on how many job share and information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

There is one person who has a formal home-working contract and works more than four hours a week from home.

Departmental ICT

Paul Holmes: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many *(a)* memory sticks, *(b)* laptop computers, *(c)* desktop computers, *(d)* hard drives and *(e)* mobile telephones were (i) lost by and (ii) stolen from his Department in each year since its inception. [234091]

Mr. Simon: The records do not distinguish between lost and stolen items.

	2007-08	*2008 to date*
(a) memory sticks	one lost and subsequently recovered	None
(b) laptop computers	one lost and subsequently recovered	None
(c) desktop computers	None	None
(d) hard drives	None	None
(e) mobile telephones	2	2

Departmental Written Questions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of Questions for written answer tabled to his Department in each month of the current parliamentary Session were answered within *(a)* one week, *(b)* one fortnight and *(c)* one month. [235361]

Mr. Simon: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

English Language: Immigrants

Chris Huhne: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many places were available on English for Speakers of Other Languages courses for immigrants in each of the last 10 years. [234315]

Mr. Simon: Since 2001, the Government fund English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) courses through the Skills for Life strategy as part of the Learning and Skills Council's (LSC's) overall adult skills budget.

The data collected by LSC cover all eligible ESOL learners in England whether they are long-term residents or recently arrived in the UK.

Providers are not required to hold a specific number of ESOL places but rather meet learner demand within the funds allocated. The data collected shows the number of enrolments by learners on courses with Skills for Life ESOL learning aim.

	Learning aims enrolled
2001/02	302,254
2002/03	409,749
2003/04	455,080
2004/05	538,681
2005/06	549,558
2006/07	335,232

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many UK-domiciled undergraduate students studied at universities in England in 2006-07. [235327]

Mr. Lammy: In the 2006-07 academic year there were 1,356,055 UK domiciled undergraduate enrolments at English higher education institutions.

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many students there are for doctoral degrees at each university in England. [235328]

Mr. Lammy: Figures are given in the following table. The latest period for which figures are available is the 2006/07 academic year; figures for the 2007/08 academic year will be available in late January 2009.

Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution—English higher education institutions

	2006/07 academic year
Higher education institution	*Doctorate enrolments*
Open University	780
Cranfield University	960
Royal College of Art	40
Royal College of Nursing	5
Buckinghamshire Chilterns University College	45
Central School of Speech and Drama	10
University of Chester	40
Canterbury Christ Church University	310
York St. John University	25
College of St. Mark and St John	5
Partington College of Arts	45
Edge Hill University	20
University College Falmouth	5
Harper Adams University College	25
University of Winchester	80
Liverpool Hope University	25
University of the Arts, London	80
University of Bedfordshire	135
University of Northampton	105
Newman College of Higher Education	5
Roehampton University	140
Royal Academy of Music	10
Royal College of Music	20
Southampton Solent University	25
St. Martin's College	50
St. Mary's University College, Twickenham	10
Leeds Trinity and All Saints	5
University of Worcester	95
Anglia Ruskin University	295
Bath Spa University	60
University of Bolton	110
Bournemouth University	170
University of Brighton	300
University of Central England in Birmingham	110
University of Central Lancashire	290
University of Gloucestershire	155
Coventry University	285
University of Derby	200
University of East London	690
University of Greenwich	210
University of Hertfordshire	400
University of Huddersfield	300
University of Lincoln	240
Kingston University	385
Leeds Metropolitan University	270
Liverpool John Moores University	270
Manchester Metropolitan University	465
Middlesex University	345
De Montfort University	395
University of Northumbria at Newcastle	450
Nottingham Trent University	440
Oxford Brookes University	250
University of Plymouth	540
University of Portsmouth	460
Sheffield Hallam University	460
London South Bank University	205
Staffordshire University	205
University of Sunderland	250
University of Teesside	225

Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution—English higher education institutions

	2006/07 academic year
Higher education institution	*Doctorate enrolments*
Thames Valley University	55
University of the West of England, Bristol	640
University of Chichester	15
University of Westminster	205
University of Wolverhampton	185
Aston University	335
University of Bath	920
University of Birmingham	3,190
University of Bradford	460
University of Bristol	2,220
Brunel University	960
University of Cambridge	5,455
City University	695
University of Durham	1,535
University of East Anglia	1,250
University of Essex	1,215
University of Exeter	1,285
University of Hull	705
University of Keele	535
University of Kent	470
University of Lancaster	990
University of Leeds	2,465
University of Leicester	1,735
University of Liverpool	1,320
Birkbeck College	465
Goldsmiths College	615
Imperial College of Science, Technology and Medicine	1,155
Institute of Education	380
King's College London	1,690
London Business School	70
London School of Economics and Political Science	1,050
London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine	135
Queen Mary and Westfield College	780
Royal Holloway and Bedford New College	930
Royal Veterinary College	150
St. George's Hospital Medical School	200
School of Oriental and African Studies	745
School of Pharmacy	150
University College London	1,440
University of London (Institutes and activities)	120
Loughborough University	1,100
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne	2,390
University of Nottingham	3,335
University of Oxford	5,[illegible]40
University of Reading	1,110
University of Salford	570
University of Sheffield	1,985
University of Southampton	2,500
University of Surrey	1,445
University of Sussex	1,190
University of Warwick	1,905
University of York	1,425
Institute of Cancer Research	100
Norwich School of Art and Design	5
Royal Agricultural College	15
Conservatoire for Dance and Drama	5
Courtauld Institute of Art	110

Doctorate enrolments[1] by higher education institution—English higher education institutions

Higher education institution	*2006/07 academic year* *Doctorate enrolments*
London Metropolitan University	255
University of Buckingham	40
University of Manchester	4,470
Heythrop College	35
University College for the Creative Arts at Canterbury	35
Total	80,490

[1] Figures cover enrolments from all domiciles on full-time and part-time courses.

Notes:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis and are rounded to the nearest five therefore components may not sum to the total.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record

Higher Education: Part-Time Education

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate students studied part-time in each year since 2002-03. [235317]

Mr. Lammy: Figures are given in the following table. The latest period for which figures are available is the 2006-07 academic year: figures for the 2007-08 academic year will be available in late January 2009.

Total enrolments[1] and part-time enrolments by level of study English higher education institutions 2002-03 to 2006-07 academic years

Academic year	*Total undergraduates*	*Of which part-time*		*Total postgraduates*	*Of which part-time*	
		Number	*Proportion*		*Number*	*Proportion*
2002-03	1,390,920	492,325	35.4	416,745	243,170	58.4
2003-04	1,428,430	503,440	35.2	439,985	253,440	57.6
2004-05	1,448,385	503,265	34.7	447,440	256,780	57.4
2005-06	1,481,985	505,165	34.1	454,435	257,705	56.7
2006-07	1,494,760	508,955	34.0	462,430	260,605	56.4

[1] Figures cover enrolments from all domiciles.

Note:

Figures are on a HESA Standard Registration Population (SRP) basis. Numbers are rounded to the nearest five and proportions are rounded to one decimal place.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) Student Record.

Higher Education: Plagiarism

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to prevent the use of essay mills by university students. [233092]

Mr. Lammy: Universities, as autonomous bodies, are responsible for determining what policies should be in place to detect plagiarism and to decide appropriate disciplinary action. Universities also determine what advice should be provided to their students on plagiarism. The Quality Assurance Agency's code of practice, the Joint Information Systems Committee (JISC) and the Higher Education Academy provide advice and guidance to universities on dealing with this issue. JISC includes on its Plagiarism Advisory Service website a list of well-known European and US essay bank websites, to make academics and teachers aware of these sites. Academics can use examples from these sites to demonstrate how essays used from such sources are often of poor quality and can be identified during their marking.

Learning and Skills Council: Accountancy

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what proportion of payments by the Learning and Skills Council were made within 30 days of the receipt of the invoice in the last period for which figures are available. [235367]

Mr. Simon: The payment detail of this kind is not collected by my Department. This is an operational matter which is carried out by the Learning and Skills Council. Mark Haysom, the council's Chief Executive, will write to the hon. Gentleman with further information. A copy of his reply will be placed in the House Library.

Students: Fess and Charges

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much has been collected by universities in tuition fees in each year since such fees were introduced. [235363]

Mr. Lammy: The required information is contained in the Resources of Higher Education Institutions Volumes which are published by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) which are held in the House of Commons Library.

The figures in the volumes contain all tuition fees not just those which are regulated.

Students: Finance

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills how much his Department has spent on *(a)* fee and *(b)* maintenance grants for part-time students in each year since 2005. [232391]

Mr. Lammy: The current part-time support package was introduced in 2004 consisting of a course grant to help pay for books, travel and other course costs and a grant towards fees. Course grants and fee grants are income assessed, but they are non-repayable and there is no upper age limit.

Part-time students are not eligible for maintenance grants.

The following data relate to England.

		£ million
Academic year	*Fee grant*	*Course grant*
2005-06	20.0	9.8
2006-07	26.5	11.12
2007-08	Not yet available	

Students: Loans

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what the value of student loan debt is that was previously sold off to banks, and is now held by the Bank of England. [235360]

Mr. Lammy: The Government sold two tranches of student loan debt valued at approximately £1 billion each in 1998 and 1999 respectively. The outstanding loan balances now stand at approximately £400 million each. The public/private sector relationship between DIUS and the two private sector owners of student loan debt, Finance for Higher Education Ltd., and Honours Trustees Ltd. remains that of liaison on equity of treatment for graduate borrowers whether or not their loans are in the private sector or public sector ownership. The private sector owners are funded by widely distributed investments. Details of individual investors are not held by DIUS.

Students: Voluntary Work

Mr. Willetts: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what plans the Government has to provide additional financial support to students undertaking voluntary work. [235362]

Mr. Lammy: Volunteering, by its very nature is normally unfunded activity in higher education and elsewhere.

From September 2008 the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills has funded the pathfinder phase of the new Aimhigher Associates scheme. The aim of the Aimhigher Associate scheme is to interest and engage young people in higher education by bringing together potential and actual undergraduates in mentoring relationships. Aimhigher Associates will be a national programme, delivered through Aimhigher Partnerships. The Aimhigher Associates themselves will receive £40 per day for the time they commit to the scheme. This is the same remuneration as Student Associate Scheme mentors receive through the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

In addition, students doing volunteering activities may receive funding for expenses from their universities, or the organisations they are undertaking volunteering with, for the projects they are involved in.

Vocational Training: Business

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Innovation, Universities and Skills what estimate he has made of the overall level of co-funding by *(a)* adults and *(b)* employers to Learning and Skills Council 19+ employer responsive provision, including adult apprenticeships, 19+ Train to Gain funding and 19+ employer-based NVQs. [232398]

Mr. Simon: Government funding is focused on supporting people to gain the basic platform of skills for entering and progressing in sustained employment. This is reflected in the balance of responsibility between Government, learners and employers in meeting the costs of training with learners and employers contributing more to the costs where they see the greatest private returns. We do not specify whether the contribution towards the cost of a course comes from the learner or the employer.

For 2008-09, the funding a college or provider receives for a course through the adult learner responsive model is based on an assumption that a contribution of 42.5 per cent. is made towards the costs of the course. Learners who are on income related benefits or studying a Skills for Life basic literacy or numeracy qualification, a first full level 2 or first for level 3 qualification (where they are aged under 25 year olds) will not have to pay fees.

Within Train to Gain (which now includes all NVQs delivered in the workplace) there is an assumed contribution where the learner is aged over 25 years and studying at level 3 or above. For Adult Apprenticeships, the funding is based a contribution broadly in line with the national fee assumption.

In all cases it is for the college or provider to determine the actual level of contribution towards the cost of the course and how this contribution is made. It is therefore not possible to provide information on the total level of co-funding made in respect of specific courses.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan

Dr. Fox: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many of his Department's personnel are in each province of *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what functions they are carrying out in each case. [210497]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs the following number of UK based staff in Afghanistan and Iraq:

	Number
Afghanistan	74
Iraq	47

Many of our staff perform a variety of functions, it is therefore not possible to give a detailed breakdown of the functions carried out by individual members of staff.

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the unit cost is for a member of his Department's staff to be based in *(a)* Afghanistan and *(b)* Iraq; and what the breakdown of the cost is in each case. [216311]

David Miliband: The annual unit cost directly associated with a Foreign and Commonwealth Office UK-based member of staff posted to Afghanistan or Iraq varies according to grade. The average unit cost for Afghanistan is £252,855 and £484,252 for Iraq. Salary costs include salary, pension contributions and national insurance payments; travel, start up and end of tour costs and living allowances. The breakdown is as follows:

		£
	Afghanistan	*Iraq*
Salary, pension and NI	67,078	49,654
Allowances (including travel)	61,713	79,514
Security	124,054	341,243
Accommodation	8,215	23,841
Total	261,060	494,252

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the cost to his Department of civilian deployments alongside the military in conflict stabilisation work in Afghanistan and Iraq, referred to in paragraph 10 of the Government's response to the Foreign Affairs Committee First Report of Session 2007-08, was in the last financial year for which figures are available. [218800]

David Miliband: In the financial year 2007-08, the global conflict prevention pool, which was shared with the Department for International Development and the Ministry of Defence, spent £6.9 million in deploying civilian experts to Iraq and £2.3 million in deploying civilian experts to Helmand. In addition, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office spent £4.8 million in deploying the Department's own staff to the provincial reconstruction team in Helmand.

Afghanistan: Interpreters

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many interpreters are employed by his Department in Afghanistan. [216309]

David Miliband: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office currently employs 18 interpreters in Afghanistan (in financial year 2008-09). This is an overall increase of four locally engaged interpreters from the previous financial year.

Afghanistan: Politics and Government

Dr. Kumar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government plans to take to assist Afghanistan in its democratic development. [229849]

Bill Rammell: The Government are undertaking a series of programmes to promote democracy in Afghanistan, across a range of issues. This includes supporting the forthcoming elections, educating the electorate, helping build solid institutional capacity, delivering security, protecting and promoting human rights, including freedom of expression, and encouraging political participation.

The Government gave over £20 million to support the 2004-05 Afghan elections, and we are committed to presidential, parliamentary and provincial council elections going ahead in 2009-10. So far this year we have given £6 million to support the Afghan Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) to conduct voter registration and we are working closely with the UN on election planning.

Our armed forces continue to work hard with their Afghan counterparts to provide the broader security needed for voter registration and elections to take place, and as in 2004-05, they are also ready to provide wider logistical support if needed.

Across Afghanistan the IEC is also conducting voter outreach—helping the Afghan electorate to understand both the importance of voting and how they can decide the future of their country. Education is vital to help voters make informed choices, and in 2007-08 we provided £55 million to the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund to help finance the salaries of over 100,000 teachers. These resources have contributed to the increase of pupils enrolled in school from two million in 2002 to around six million today.

Freedom of expression, particularly for the media, is key to creating the space necessary for political debate. We have raised our concerns in individual cases where journalists' freedom has been threatened. We are also working with both the BBC World Service and the BBC World Service Trust (the World Service's charitable arm) on projects to improve and develop the media in Afghanistan. For example, we are involving female Afghan journalists in 'Afghan's Woman's Hour' which informs and empowers women in Afghanistan.

A key component of democratic development is ensuring women have a vote and are represented in both Parliament and government. In the 2005 elections, over 40 per cent. of those who voted were women—a major step forward from life under the Taliban. In addition 27 per cent. of seats in the Lower House of the Afghan Parliament are now held by women. There is currently one female Afghan Minister and one female Governor.

Since 2001 we have committed over £1.65 billion to aid the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan. Around 80 per cent. of our current aid to Afghanistan is channelled through the democratically elected Afghan government, to help strengthen both its capacity and legitimacy. On the ground in Helmand, we are also working hard with the local Governor to ensure that the Afghan government deliver basic services for their people.

It is a large task and a long-term endeavour, but these combined approaches to democratic development in Afghanistan are ensuring that gradual progress is being made.

Asylum: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with the European Commission on the Commission's forthcoming announcement on asylum policy; and if he will make a statement. [211275]

David Miliband: The UK remains in close contact with the European Commission, and regularly updates the Commission on UK asylum policy. The European Commission presented the Policy Plan on Asylum on 17 June—setting out a road map for the next stage of the Common European Asylum System. The Commission is due to present proposals for two of the instruments of the Common European Asylum System—the Dublin

II/Eurodac regulation and the Reception Conditions directive—in December. The UK will carefully consider these proposals ahead of the opt-in deadline next year.

China: Human Rights

Ben Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what resources his Department plans to allocate to work on human rights in China over the next three years. [222299]

Gillian Merron: Human rights work is a key part of our engagement with China and we continue to commit considerable resources to it. As well as a number of officers working full-time on human rights and governance issues in London and the embassy in Beijing, human rights work features in the responsibilities of a large number of other officials at all levels, including the ambassador in Beijing and director Asia-Pacific in London. Project funding is reviewed annually and the amount we receive can vary from year to year. The FCO has recently approved £660,000 of funding for new projects over the next three years under the Strategic Programme Fund Human Rights and Democracy Programme and additional bids will be considered. We also provide grant in aid funding to the Great Britain-China Centre, which carries out a number of projects on human rights and rule of law in China.

Christmas

Mr. Prisk: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many Christmas functions *(a)* he, *(b)* officials from his Department and *(c)* officials from its executive agencies (i) hosted and (ii) attended in 2007-08; what the cost to the public purse was; and if he will make a statement. [226947]

Caroline Flint: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary held one official Christmas function for Ministers and members of the press which cost £9,313. He paid for his own tickets for an FCO staff and families Christmas party and hosted a small reception for his Private Office team at no cost to the public purse. He also attended a reception hosted by the Leader of the House of Commons, the right hon. Harriet Harman.

The other information requested in the hon. Member's question is not held centrally and could not be obtained without incurring disproportionate cost.

Conferences

Mr. Maude: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Prime Minister's Progressive Governance Conference involved costs to the public purse. [210878]

David Miliband: The Progressive Governance Conference on 4 April was organised by Policy Network. No Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) funds were spent on this event.

The Progressive Governance Summit on 5 April was jointly organised by the Government and Policy Network. The cost to the FCO of organising this event was £287,790.92.

Cuba: Overseas Trade

Mr. Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions his Department has had with the government of the United States on the position of British companies which trade with Cuba; and if he will make a statement. [216274]

Gillian Merron: The Government strongly oppose excessive assertions of extraterritorial jurisdiction, by other states on UK individuals and/or companies; in particular the excessive use of unjustified trade sanctions.

We have made our opposition to US policy, on trade with Cuba, clear through our vote every year against the US embargo on Cuba at the UN General Assembly. This includes extraterritorial aspects of US legislation. The last vote took place on 29 October 2008.

Departmental Air Travel

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Answer to my right hon. Friend the Member for Horsham (Mr. Maude) of 14 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 27W, on carbon emissions: Government departments, how much air mileage incurred through departmental travel was used to calculate the departmental payment to the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund in each year that his Department has participated in the fund, broken down by *(a)* domestic, *(b)* short haul and *(c)* long haul flights. [222081]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) does not participate in the Government Carbon Offsetting Fund (GCOF). The FCO off-sets official air travel for Ministers and officials in the UK through the Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Partnership, an arrangement which predates the creation of GCOF.

Departmental Alcoholic Drinks

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs at how many events held by his Department *(a)* wine and *(b)* Fairtrade wine were served in the last three years; and what assessment his Department has made of the merits of serving Fairtrade wine at future events. [196947]

Gillian Merron: In the last three years, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) in-house catering supplier has managed 357 events where wine was served. Government hospitality, part of FCO Protocol Directorate, provides official hospitality for events hosted by Government ministers. Over the last three years, Government hospitality organised 632 events at which wine was served or available.

None of the wines used at these events were Fairtrade. However, while the FCO does not have mandatory requirements in place for the procurement or provision of Fairtrade products, we are committed to improving market access to producers in developing countries through increased participation in fair and sustainable supply chains. Fairtrade wines are an option made available by the FCO's in-house caterers.

Departmental Assets

Mr. Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs over what period his Department depreciates the asset value of its *(a)* vehicles, *(b)* computer hardware, *(c)* bespoke computer software, *(d)* standard computer software, *(e)* furniture and *(f)* telecommunications equipment. [213222]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office depreciates its tangible and intangible assets over periods consistent with the accounting standards laid out in FReM, the Government's Financial Reporting Manual, (Section 5.2.4).

Departmental Data Protection

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many data security breaches have been notified to the Information Commissioner by his Department and its agencies in the last 12 months. [206762]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office wrote to the Information Commissioner on three occasions in the last 12 months to inform him about potential data losses. Details are given in the departmental report for 2007-08 which can be accessed at the following website address:

www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-the-fco/publications/annual-reports/departmental-report.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Mr. Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the five most serious disciplinary breaches in his Department were in the last 12 months; and what steps were taken in response to each breach. [223058]

Gillian Merron: The five most serious disciplinary breaches by UK-based staff (members of the diplomatic service and home civil servants serving at home or overseas) in the Foreign and Commonwealth Office since 14 August 2007 were:

2 cases of gross misconduct which resulted in the officers' dismissal;

2 cases of gross misconduct which resulted in a final written warning on the officers' files, to remain on the files indefinitely;

A case of misconduct which resulted in a final written warning on the officer's file for 12 months.

In those cases above where officers were not dismissed, other penalties were imposed in addition to final written warnings. In two cases a ban on taking up a diplomatic service appointment overseas for three years was imposed. In one case an officer, who had been on temporary promotion, was downgraded with immediate effect to their substantive grade.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has detailed guidance on our misconduct procedures which is accessible to all staff. They apply to all UK-based officers working for the FCO. A conduct adviser in the human resources directorate advises officers and their line-managers on how to implement the misconduct procedures and ensures best practice across the office. Additionally, our posts overseas have specific misconduct procedures in place, based on local law, which are applicable to locally-engaged staff.

Departmental Expert Groups

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what expert groups his Department set up in each year since 1999. [213197]

Gillian Merron: Expert groups may be established at the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) in London, or at any of the FCO's overseas posts. However such information is not held centrally and therefore could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental ICT

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he has taken to ensure that counterfeit routers and other counterfeit hardware are not utilised in his Department's computer networks. [203241]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office obtains computer equipment through robust contractual arrangements with reputable suppliers and takes all necessary steps to ensure that the resulting systems conform to relevant security and other operating standards.

Departmental Papers

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what percentage of paper used *(a)* for photocopying and *(b)* in printed publications by his Department was from recycled sources in each of the last two years. [220726]

Gillian Merron: This information is not held centrally. To answer the question we would need to consult a wide range of internal Departments and posts world-wide. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Relations

James Duddridge: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many staff in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies have been seconded to public relations or public affairs firms or consultancies in each of the last five years. [222203]

Gillian Merron: Seven Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) staff are currently on secondment to public relations and public affairs firms and organisations. None of the secondments involve staff from the FCO's agencies.

Figures on the number of secondments were not collated between 2002-07 and cannot be obtained without disproportionate cost.

Departmental Reorganisation

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 23 January 2008, *Official Report*, columns 52-3WS, on the new strategic framework, what *(a)* resources and *(b)* numbers of staff within his Department are currently assigned to (i) counter-terrorism and counter-proliferation, (ii) climate change and (iii) reform of international institutions. [178906]

David Miliband: 2006-07 is the last year for which records of spend against objectives are available for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office.

The net operating cost of all activities in support of the then Strategic Priority 1 (making the world safer from global terrorism and weapons of mass destruction) was £163.2 million. The net operating cost in support of the then Strategic Priority 6 (achieving climate security by promoting a faster transition to a sustainable, low carbon global economy) was £37.5 million. As the reform of international institutions was not an explicit priority for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office at this time, we are unable to provide a figure for the level of resources assigned to this activity.

These figures are published in the FCO's resource accounts, which are freely available on the departmental website.

The latest available figures, from an exercise completed in September 2007, show that the number of FCO staff (both UK based and locally engaged staff) assigned to the then Strategic Priority 1 is 551, the number assigned to the then Strategic Priority 6 is 203. We do not have figures available for the number of staff currently assigned to the reform of international institutions, since this only became an explicit priority for the FCO on 1 April 2008.

Departmental Sick Leave

Jenny Willott: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many sick days were taken by employees in *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its agencies and *(c)* the non-departmental bodies for which it has responsibility due to (i) stress and (ii) mental health and behavioural disorders in each of the last 10 years; what proportion of sick days taken this represented in each case; and if he will make a statement. [216115]

Gillian Merron: The following table sets out the total number of sickness absence days taken by UK civil servants employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and Wilton Park, an Executive agency of the FCO. It also shows, as a percentage, how much of this total was represented by absence due to stress or mental health illness. Records do not distinguish between sickness absence for stress and mental health and behavioural disorders.

Financial year	*FCO*	*Wilton Park*
2005-06		
Total days of sickness absence	2,495	74
Percentage represented by stress/mental health illness	9.8	6.5
2006-07		
Total days of sickness absence	2,381	296
Percentage represented by stress/mental health illness	10.6	25.6
2007-08		
Total days of sickness absence	3,142	625
Percentage represented by stress/mental health illness	13.5	56.2

The FCO does not hold records of staff sickness absence before 2005; nor do we have access to the sickness absence records of non-departmental public bodies for which the FCO has responsibility.

Diplomatic Service: Manpower

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs for what reason the overseas security officer posts at diplomatic posts in *(a)* Beijing, *(b)* Cairo, *(c)* Moscow and *(d)* Hong Kong were contracted out in 2000; what the cost of the contracts let to cover each of these posts was; and if he will make a statement. [203482]

Gillian Merron: The contract for providing guards at diplomatic posts in Beijing, Cairo, Moscow and Hong Kong started in 2003. The cost of the contract, between financial years 2003-04 to 2007-08, is £4.09 million.

Dr. Murrison: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the turnover of staff employed as overseas security officers under the Control Risks contract in each year since the contract was let; what the cost of this staff turnover to his Department has been; what discussions he has had with Control Risks on staff turnover issues; and if he will make a statement. [203486]

Gillian Merron: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) no longer employs overseas security officers. The FCO contracts for the provision of an agreed level of service. The turnover of staff is, therefore, primarily a matter for the contracting company.

We have held regular contract review discussions with Control Risks, as part of our rigorous performance monitoring of the contract, at which turnover has featured.

Diplomatic Service: Recruitment

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what requests for advice or sharing of expertise concerning personnel recruitment in embassies, with particular reference to policy and management issues concerning the recruitment of locally employed staff, have been received from embassies in London and foreign services of EU partners in the last five years; what assistance or other response was given; and if he will make a statement. [224580]

David Miliband: We do not hold records centrally of approaches by embassies in London and by foreign services of EU partners on personnel recruitment in our missions. However, we are committed to sharing our own experience in these areas, and learning from others, and welcome this type of exchange with partners.

European Union Special Representatives

Mr. Hayes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs who the European Union special representatives in post are. [214153]

Caroline Flint: Details of EU special representatives in post are published on the European Council website at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/cms3_fo/showPage.asp?id=263&lang=EN

summarised as follows:

Marc Otte was appointed EUSR for the Middle East peace process on 14 July 2003;

Erwan Fouéré was appointed EUSR for the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia on 17 October 2005;

Peter Semneby was appointed EUSR for the South Caucasus on 20 February 2006;

Pierre Morel was appointed EUSR for Central Asia on 5 October 2006;

Roeland van de Geer was appointed EUSR for the Great Lakes Region on 14 February 2007;

Kálmán Mizsei was appointed EUSR for Moldova on 15 February 2007;

Torben Brylle was appointed EU special representative (EUSR) for Sudan on 19 April 2007;

Miroslav Lajcák was appointed EUSR for Bosnia and Herzegovina on 18 June 2007;

Koen Vervaeke was appointed EUSR to the African Union (AU) on 6 December 2007;

Pieter Feith was appointed EUSR in Kosovo on 4 February 2008;

Ettore Francesco Sequi was appointed EUSR for Afghanistan on 24 July 2008; and

Pierre Morel was also appointed EUSR for the crisis in Georgia on 25 September 2008.

Foreign Policy: Science

Willie Rennie: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many times he has met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser to discuss the effect of scientific developments on foreign policy. [220330]

David Miliband: I have met the Government Chief Scientific Adviser, Professor John Beddington, once since he was appointed in 2008.

France: EU Presidency

Mr. Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what the Government's policy is on initiatives to be promoted by the French Presidency of the Council of Ministers. [213172]

Caroline Flint: The French presidency began on 1 July 2008 and ends on 31 December 2008. The presidency has had a full agenda on a wide range of issues which matter to EU citizens including climate change and migration. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office produces a Command Paper on each EU presidency every six months, and the Paper on the French presidency of the EU is currently in the Library of the House. It may also be accessed via the FCO website at: www.fco.gov.uk The Government have worked very closely with the French Government following the successful UK-France summit in March of this year.

Gaza: Human Trafficking

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* he, *(b)* Ministers in his Department, *(c)* officials in his Department, *(d)* the British Ambassador to Egypt and *(e)* officials in the British Embassy in Egypt have had with the Government of Egypt on the trafficking of (i) weapons and (ii) people into Gaza from Egypt via under-border tunnels; what response was received; what reports he has received on the number of tunnels between Gaza and Egypt that have been (A) discovered and (B) closed; and if he will make a statement. [214051]

Bill Rammell: The UK welcomes any appropriate action taken to reduce trafficking of weapons and people into Gaza. Earlier in the year, we pressed Egypt to act on smuggling. With the number of tunnels being discovered and closed constantly changing, we are unable to provide a definitive figure, but we continue to monitor the situation.

Immigration: EC Action

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials have had with their French counterparts concerning the French EU Presidency's programme for EU asylum and immigration policy; and if he will make a statement. [211272]

David Miliband: The UK has worked closely with France on its programme for EU asylum and immigration policy, the cornerstone of which has been the European pact on immigration and asylum. The pact was formally agreed by member states at the October European Council. We welcome the pact for the additional focus and momentum it brings to EU policy on migration and asylum. Officials and ministers met on a number of occasions to discuss the pact.

Intimidation

Mr. Hoban: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 4 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 763W, on intimidation, how many cases of bullying in *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies were reported in each month of 2006. [189376]

Gillian Merron: The information requested is as follows:

(a) In the main Foreign and Commonwealth Office, three cases involving bullying were raised as internal grievances in March, June and August 2006. Of these, two were not upheld. One was partially upheld, meaning that the grievance would have had several elements to it, with evidence found to support some but not all of those elements.

(b) In the FCO Services Agency, there was one bullying allegation in January 2006 which resulted in a disciplinary penalty.

Iran: Politics and Government

John Bercow: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps are being taken by his Department to support pro-democracy student groups in Iran. [204369]

Bill Rammell: It is the longstanding policy of the UK, and the EU, to stand up for the internationally recognised principles to which so many Iranians aspire, including human rights, political freedoms and genuinely democratic, transparent and accountable government. We maintain contacts with a wide range of Iranians in many different fields (in and outside government) who work to support reform and the rule of law, including some connected to the Iranian student movement, which has historically been involved in the promotion of civil rights.

We are concerned by the growing pressure facing student activists this year, and the Iranian Government's refusal to acknowledge the rights of student activist groups. Many have been arrested and imprisoned for taking part in activities in support of their rights, such as demonstrations on National University Students' Day; and student publications are often targeted and closed down. In July five students were arrested in Mashhad for pursuing the cases of other detained students. The EU, with strong UK support, regularly raises concerns about human rights violations with the Iranian authorities. A recent EU demarche, delivered on 6 October, raised specific concerns about the increased pressure on Iranian students and the large number of arrests in recent months.

Lucinda Lavelle

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs when he will respond to the letter of 25 September from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms Lucinda Lavelle, transferred to his Department by the Prime Minister. [235992]

David Miliband: I responded to my right hon. Friend on 7 November.

Ministers: Official Residences

Mr. Heald: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the television licence fee in his official Ministerial residence is paid for from public funds. [233244]

Gillian Merron: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary does not have an official residence. However he does have use of Chevening House in Sevenoaks, Kent. The licence fee for the television there is paid for by the Chevening Trust who administer the estate.

Montserrat: Immigration

Andrew Mackinlay: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* illegal immigrants and *(b)* asylum seekers there are in Montserrat; who pays for their accommodation and support; and how their future status will be determined. [233159]

Gillian Merron: At present, we understand there are no illegal immigrants in Montserrat, and there are 19 persons who have claimed asylum—14 of whom are Sri Lankans, and five are Haitians. Working with the UK Government, the Government of Montserrat have interviewed and taken statements from each individual asylum seeker. At the same time, the Government of Montserrat are updating their immigration legislation to ensure its compliance with current international obligations, including the UN Convention relating to the Status of Refugees 1951. The enactment of the updated immigration legislation is expected by the end of December 2008, after which a determination of the individual asylum claims will be both made and enforced.

In the meantime, the Government of Montserrat have provided accommodation, and cover the costs of electricity and water. All 17 adults have been granted temporary work permits, and use their earnings to cover their food, transport and other personal costs, which ensure that costs to local government are minimised. The one school age child attends primary school free of charge.

National Security

Mr. Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what role he envisages for the Commonwealth in helping to deliver the National Security Strategy. [212407]

Bill Rammell: The Commonwealth is a useful forum for sharing ideas and experience. It does valuable work on promoting the rule of law and respect and understanding among all faiths and communities. It also works on anti-money laundering and combating the financing of terrorism. As such it has a potential role to play in helping to deliver the National Security Strategy, though primarily in support of the work of other international institutions. Member country officials will meet soon to consider the role the Commonwealth might play in this area in future.

Olympic Games

Mr. Don Foster: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials from his Department plan to attend the Beijing Olympic Games; to what purpose in each case; and what estimate he has made of the cost. [212105]

Bill Rammell: Lord Jones, in his role as Minister for Trade and Investment, was in Beijing from 21 to 26 August to promote British business capability, investment and partnership opportunities in general as well as specific business opportunities arising from hosting an Olympic Games. Lord Jones supported several key business events and initiatives and a delegation of UK businesses.

Sir Alan Collins was in Beijing from 21 to 27 August. Sir Alan is employed by the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and his costs are being met by the FCO. His current role is Director General Trade and Investment USA. As high commissioner in Singapore, he was a member of the London 2012 Delegation that won the Games for the UK in July 2005 and he is Champion for the International Business Legacy from the London 2012 Games.

Costs were limited and consisted of flights and hotels for the delegation for the period of their stay.

Otherwise the British embassy Beijing and the Consulate-General Hong Kong provided a full service for tourists, Team GB and Government visitors including my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister.

Rendition

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss the issue of rendition detainees with the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture. [196090]

David Miliband: On 5 March Lord Malloch-Brown spoke to Mr. Nowak, the UN Special Rapporteur on torture, in the margins of the UN Human Rights Council in Geneva. Lord Malloch-Brown encouraged Mr. Nowak to provide the Government with any evidence he may have regarding allegations that detainees may have been held on Diego Garcia between 2002 and 2003. Officials speak regularly to Mr. Nowak and his team on a range of issues.

Russia: British Nationality

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Russian counterpart access to information on UK nationals formerly held in Soviet Union labour camps contained within the archives of the former KGB. [223919]

Caroline Flint: On 21 September, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office formally requested that the Russian government provide support and assistance to any individuals and families in the United Kingdom who are seeking access to information held in Russian government archives about relatives formerly detained in Soviet Union labour camps.

Seychelles

Mr. Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many British citizens *(a)* visited and *(b)* emigrated to the Seychelles in each year since 2000. [205059]

Gillian Merron: The National Statistics Bureau (NSB) of the Republic of Seychelles estimates the number of visitors to Seychelles in the period 2000-2008 as follows:

	Number
2000	16,117
2001	17,076
2002	18,890
2003	18,765
2004	17,629
2005	16,497
2006	15,529
2007	16,372
2008 (January to September)	10,543

The NSB estimates the number of UK nationals who have entered Seychelles as residents in the period 2000-2008 as follows:

	Number
2000	1,197
2001	1,356
2002	1,397
2003	1,714
2004	1,693
2005	1,840
2006	1,843
2007	2,078
2008 (5 November 2008)	1,698

The figures provided by the NSB on the number of UK residents entering Seychelles are for all residents, including work permit holders and dual nationals returning from the UK to Seychelles to visit. UK nationals rarely seek citizenship in Seychelles and would likely number single figures.

Somalia: Ethiopia

Mr. Drew: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the effects on Somalia of the continuing Ethiopian presence in that country. [203908]

Gillian Merron: Ethiopia intervened in Somalia, at the invitation of the Transitional Federal Government, in December 2006, to counter the perceived threat from increasing militancy within the Islamic courts. The military defeat of the Islamic courts led to the establishment of the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia in Asmara by some the political leaders of the Islamic courts. Its more militant elements have since engaged in an insurgency against the Ethiopian forces and the Transitional Federal Government.

Following UN brokered talks in Djibouti beginning in May 2008, the Transitional Federal Government and the majority element of the Alliance for the Re-liberation of Somalia signed an agreement on the cessation of armed confrontation on 19 August 2008. On 26 October, the parties to the Djibouti Agreement held further talks, which agreed the date for the cessation of armed confrontation to begin on 5 November 2008. They also set in motion the requirement for Ethiopia to withdraw its troops within 120 days.

The Government support the Djibouti Agreement as the first opportunity for many years for Somalis to bring lasting stability to their country.

Sudan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr. Hague: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the role of Mr. Ahmad Harun in *(a)* the Oversight Committee joint UN-AU hybrid operation in Darfur and *(b)* the joint National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement committee; and if he will make a statement. [213370]

David Miliband: Ahmad Harun has a seat on the UN-African Union joint peacekeeping mission Oversight Committee due to his position as State Minister for Humanitarian Affairs and is a member of the National Congress Party and Sudan People's Liberation Movement Committee, which leads on political engagement between the two political parties. We are not aware of any specific allocation of responsibilities for members of either committee. We have avoided any contact with Mr. Harun.

We have continued to press the Government of Sudan, at all levels, to comply with the International Criminal Court requirements, including during the UN Security Council visit to Sudan in June 2008. I raised the need for Sudan to co-operate with the International Criminal Court most recently in my meeting with Sudanese Vice President Ali Osman Taha on 27 September in New York.

Torture: British Nationality

Mr. Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps the Government takes to protect British citizens from becoming victims of torture. [216046]

Gillian Merron: The UK is fundamentally opposed to torture and remains one of the most active countries in the world in the fight to eradicate it. In the answer of the Parliamentary under Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs, my hon. Friend the Member for Sheffield, Heeley (Meg Munn) on 8 July 2008, *Official Report*, column 1543W, we described some of the work we carry out in trying to ensure that people of all nationalities, including British nationals, do not become victims of this abhorrent practice.

We provide consular assistance to British nationals abroad, which includes taking an interest in their welfare. We take allegations of torture very seriously and, with the permission of the individual concerned, can take up such allegations with the relevant authorities in the host state.

Western Sahara: Human Rights

Ann Clwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 April 2008, *Official Report*, column 2325W, on Western Sahara: human rights, whether the British ambassador to Morocco discussed the human rights situation in occupied Western Sahara with Moroccan government officials; and when embassy officials visited the occupied Western Sahara in the last two years. [206764]

Gillian Merron: The UK is concerned about the humanitarian impact of the ongoing conflict in Western Sahara. Our ambassador to Morocco discusses a range of issues relating to Western Sahara with Moroccan officials. The most recent high level discussions took place at the Euro Mediterranean conference in Marseille on 3 November, where my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary discussed a range of issues, including Western Sahara and human rights, with the Moroccan Foreign Minister, Taieb Fassi Fihri.

Diplomatic staff at our embassy in Rabat visited Western Sahara in October, calling on government officials, local non-governmental organisations and the UN peacekeeping mission to the Western Sahara, MINURSO. I anticipate further such visits in the future.

Ministerial Correction

Monday 3 November 2008

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Diplomatic Service

Sir John Stanley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in which UN member states the UK has no resident British Ambassador or resident British High Commissioner; and from which country British diplomatic representation is provided by accreditation in each of those countries. [223091]

[Official Report, 17 October 2008, Vol. 480, c. 1596-97W.]

Letter of correction from Gillian Merron:

I refer to Parliamentary Question number 223091:

'In which UN member states the UK has no resident British Ambassador or resident British High Commissioner; and from which country British diplomatic representation is provided by accreditation in each of those countries.'

In my reply, I mistakenly referred to the Independent State of Samoa as 'American Samoa.' I have written to the MP in question, Sir John Stanley, to apologise and correct the answer.

Please find a corrected version of my reply as follows:

UN member:	*Accredited:*
Andorra	Spain
Antigua and Barbuda	Barbados
Bahamas	Jamaica
Benin	Nigeria
Bhutan	none
Burkina Faso	Ghana
Burundi	Rwanda
Cape Verde	Senegal
Central African Republic	Cameroon
Chad	Cameroon
Comoros	Mauritius
Congo (Republic of the)	Democratic Republic of Congo
Cote d'Ivoire	Ghana
Djibouti	Ethiopia
Dominica	Barbados
East Timor	Indonesia
El Salvador	Guatemala
Equatorial Guinea	Nigeria
Gabon	Cameroon
Grenada	Barbados
Guinea-Bissau	Senegal
Haiti	Dominican Republic
Honduras	Guatemala
Independent State of Samoa	New Zealand
Kiribati	Fiji
Kyrgyzstan	Kazakhstan
Laos	Thailand
Lesotho	South Africa
Liberia	Sierra Leone
Liechtenstein	Switzerland
Madagascar	Mauritius
Maldives	Sri Lanka
Mali	Senegal
Marshall Islands	Philipines
Mauritania	Morocco
Micronesia (Federated States of)	Philipines
Monaco	France
Nauru	Fiji
Nicaragua	Costa Rica
Niger	Ghana
Palau	Philipines
Paraguay	Argentina
Saint Kitts and Nevis	Barbados
Saint Lucia	Barbados
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines	Barbados
San Marino	Italy
Sao Tome and Principe	Angola
Somalia	Kenya
Suriname	Guyana
Swaziland	South Africa
Togo	Ghana
Tonga	Fiji
Tuvalu	Fiji
Vanuatu	Fiji

Ministerial Correction

Monday 10 November 2008

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Parliamentary Session

Mr. Baron: To ask the Leader of the House (1) how many hours the House sat in each session *(a)* in 1980, *(b)* in 1990 and *(c)* in each session between 1996 and 2006; [227355]

(2) how many hours the House spent considering *(a)* primary legislation on the Floor of the House and *(b)* delegated legislation (i) in Committee and (ii) on the floor of the House in each session commencing in (A) 1980, (B) 1990 and (C) each session between 1996 and 2006. [227367]

[Official Report, 16 October 2008, Vol. 480, c. 1377-78W.]

Letter of correction from Ms Harman:

Some errors have been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Billericay (Mr. Baron) on 16 October 2008. The total number of hours that the House sat in 2001-02 were not 1,540 hours 40 minutes as listed, but 1,296 hours 52 minutes. The listed number of hours considering primary and delegated legislation on the floor of the House also contained some errors.

The correct answer should have read:

The information given as follows is available in the sessional information digests:

http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cm/cmsid.htm

	Number of hours the House sat each session		*Number of hours considering primary legislation on the floor of the House*		*Number of hours considering delegated legislation on the floor of the House*	
	Hours	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*	*Hours*	*Minutes*
1980-81	1,485	11	[1]n/a	[1]n/a	[1]n/a	[1]n/a
1990-91	1,373	53	395	54	76	05
1996-97	717	45	223	01	45	88
1997-98	2,117	36	845	16	42	65
1998-99	1,378	50	450	15	36	62
1999-2000	1,442	41	630	13	31	88
2000-01	690	27	281	15	26	82
2001-02	1,296	52	539	14	24	58
2002-03	1,287	15	475	03	18	12
2003-04	1,215	19	456	22	14	35
2004-05	535	16	218	15	9	30
2005-06	1,572	07	689	29	18	09
2006-07	1,118	52	359	28	17	61

[1] Up until the 1984-85 session the sitting hours were not broken down. Therefore, only the total number of sitting hours can be provided.

The number of hours considering primary legislation and delegated legislation in committee can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 13 November 2008

HEALTH

Alcoholic Drinks

James Brokenshire: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what representations he has received on his Department's proposals for a mandatory code of practice for the alcohol industry; and if he will make a statement. [232134]

[Official Report, 4 November 2008, Vol. 482, c. 366W.]

Letter of correction from Dawn Primarolo:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Hornchurch (James Brokenshire) on 4 November 2008. The answer given was "more than 3,200 representations"; it should have read "more than 2,200 representations".

The correct answer is as follows:

Dawn Primarolo: More than 2,200 representations have been received and are still being logged and analysed. These will be considered carefully.